1
Saki
RITZ
KOBAYASHI

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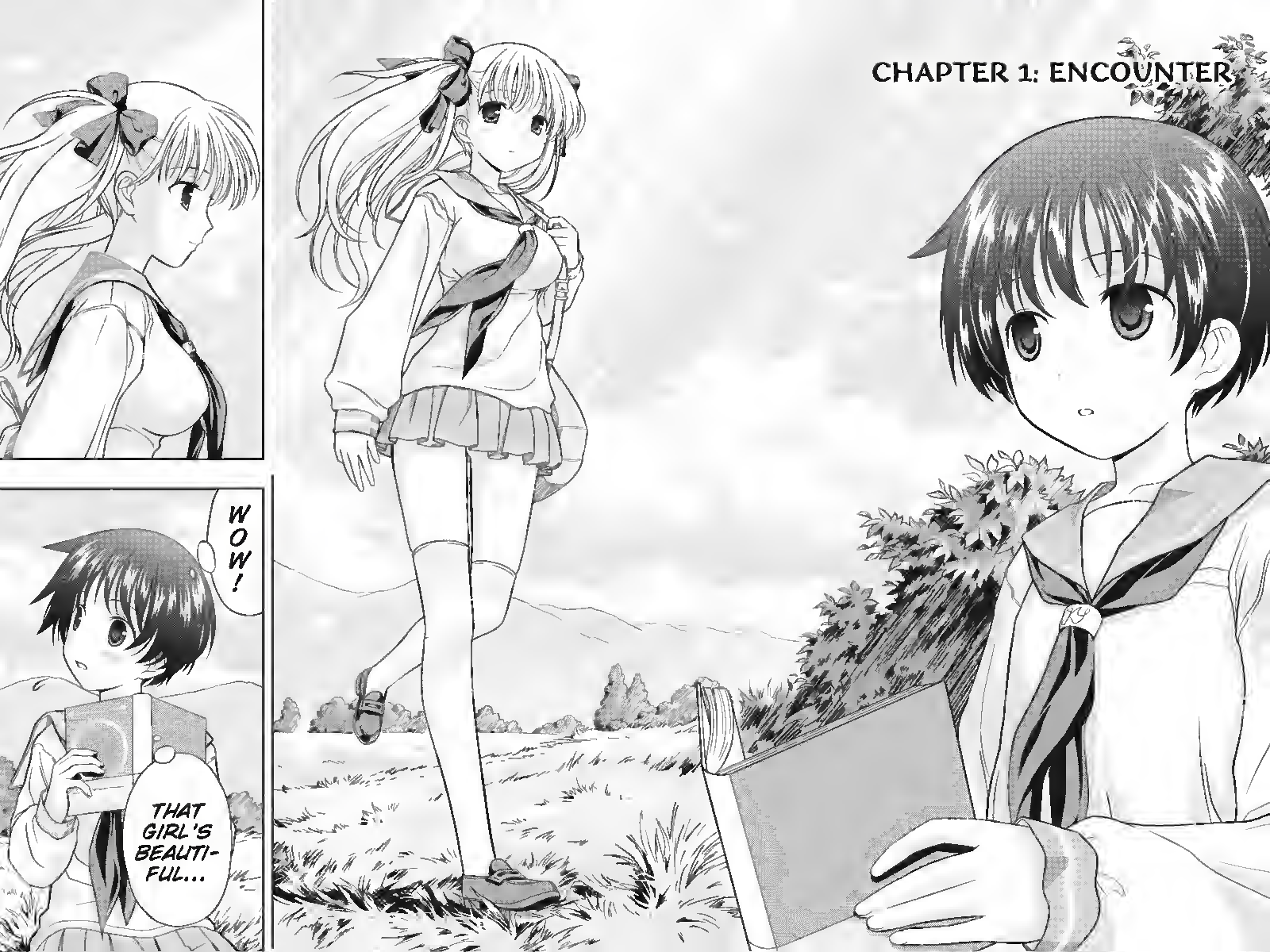
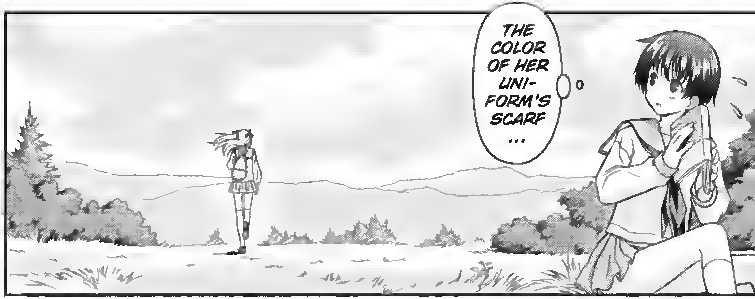
IT WAS THE FIRST SUMMER OF HER HIGH SCHOOL LIFE.


CHAPTER 1: ENCOUNTER
WOW!
THAT GIRL'S BEAUTI-FUL...


THE COLOR OF HER UNI-FORM'S SCARF ...

SAKI!
THEN SHE'S A FIRST-YEAR LIKE ME...
SAKI MIYANAGA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL

HEY!
LET'S GO TO THE CAF.
KYOU-CHAN ...
I HAVE TO READ THIS BOOK. IT'S DUE TODAY.
YOU CAN READ IT IN THE CAFETE-RIA.
THE DAILY LADIES' LUNCH SOUNDS DELICIOUS...
...AND I REALLY WANNA GET IT.
WHAT!?
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE ASKING ME...
...TO LUNCH?
KYOUTAROU SUGA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
SAKI'S CLASSMATE

HERE YOU GO.
THE LADIES' LUNCH!
THANKS!
YOU'VE GOT A FINE WIFE THERE
I'M NOT YOUR WIFE!
WE WERE JUST IN THE SAME CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
WHAT IS THAT, OUT-RIGHT REJEC-TION?
A TEXT MES-SAGE?
PING PING
MM...
BUZZ BUZZ
GOBBLE GOBBLE
NO.

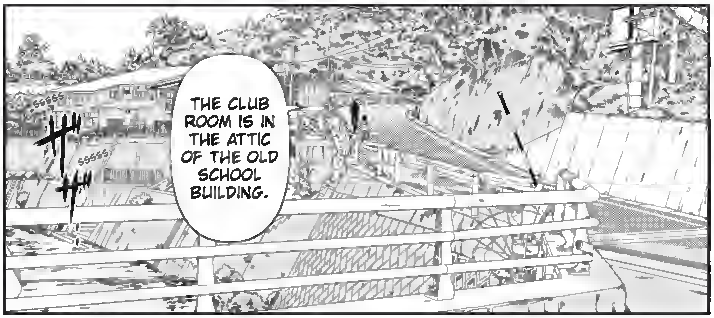
MAH-JONG?
MAHJONG IS PRETTY COOL, Y'KNOW?
I HATE IT...
I'M STILL LEARNING ALL THE YAKU THOUGH!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED MAHJONG, KYOU-CHAN.
I KNOW HOW TO PLAY IT, BUT I HATE IT.
I ALWAYS LOST MY NEW YEAR'S MONEY PLAYING WITH MY FAMILY...
HUH...
HUH?
SAKI...
...YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY MAHJONG?

WHAT DID YOU JUST DECIDE?
HEH HEH...
THAT'S CREEPY!

IT NEVER WORKS OUT WHEN SHE'S FORCED TO DO SOME-THING...
..BUT I GUESS SHE'S BETTER THAN BEING SHORT A PERSON.
YEAH.

THE MAH-JONG CLUB.

HANG OUT WITH ME ONE MORE TIME
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS.
HUH...?


THE CLUB ROOM IS IN THE ATTIC OF THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING.

Mahjong Club
WEL-COME, PRIN-CESS.

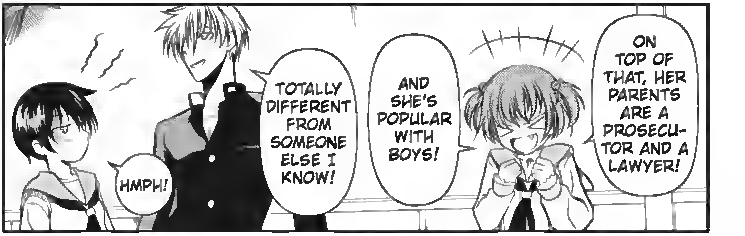
I BROUGHT AN EASY MARK!
..I HATE MAHJONG ...
LOOK, LIKE I SAID...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "PRIN-CESS"?

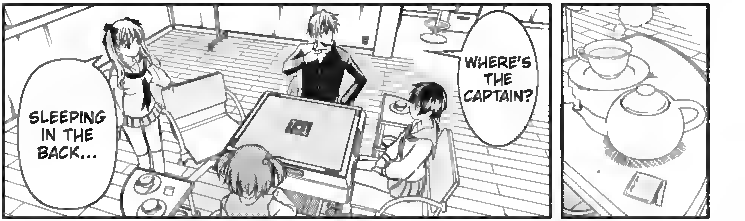
Mahjong Club

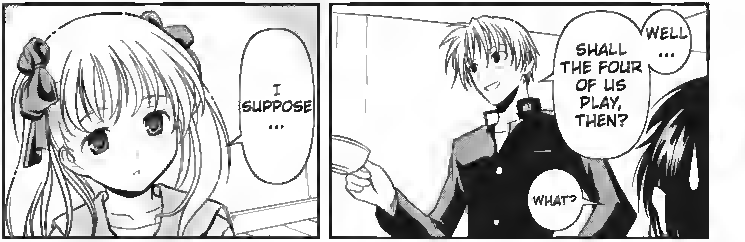
!
A GUEST ...?
THE GIRL FROM BEFORE ...
HUH?
YOU KNOW NODOKA?
YOU WERE READING A BOOK..
...BY THE BRIDGE EARLIER, WEREN'T YOU?
ULP!
YOU SAW ME?
BLUSH
かあっ
NODOKA HARAMURA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB

NODOKA WON LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNA-MENT.
IS THAT IMPRES-SIVE?
IT SURE IS!
HA
BOOM!
TWITCH
.....
I BOUGHT SOME TACOS AT THE CAF.
TACOS AGAIN?
I'LL PUT TEA ON...
YUUKI KATAOKA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB

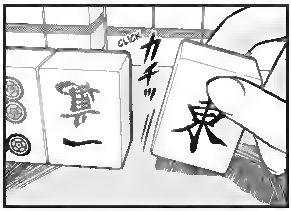
NODOKA-CHAN REALLY IS AMAZING!
WINNING THE NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT MEANS SHE WAS THE STRONGEST MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAYER IN THE COUNTRY!
OH...

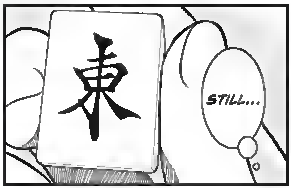

ON TOP OF THAT, HER PARENTS ARE A PROSECU-TOR AND A LAWYER!
AND SHE'S POPULAR WITH BOYS!
TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM SOMEONE ELSE I KNOW!
HMPH!


WHERE'S THE CAPTAIN?
SLEEPING IN THE BACK...

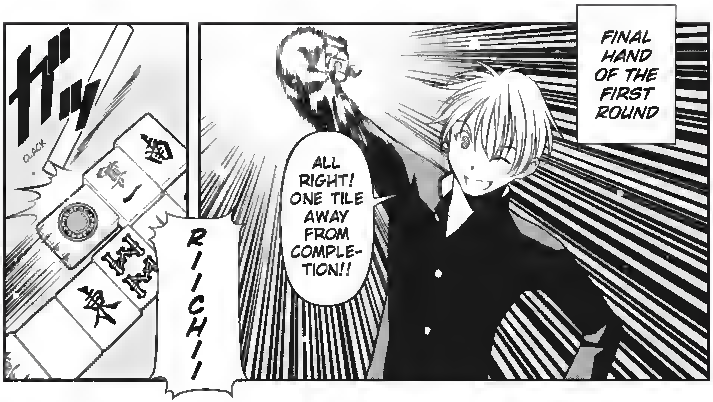

I SUPPOSE ...
WELL ...
SHALL THE FOUR OF US PLAY, THEN?
WHAT?

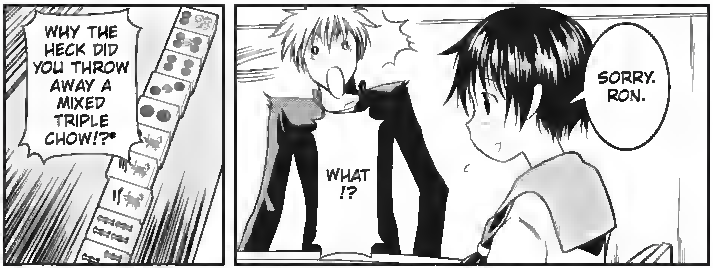
*PROPORTIONAL BONUS: 20,000 BONUS POINTS USUALLY GIVEN TO THE WINNER AT THE END



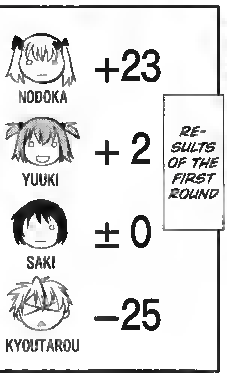


RON! A HALF FLUSH, 2,000 POINTS!
HUH!?
SHE'S A TOTAL NEWBIE!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY GATHERING CIRCLES...
YOU'D NORMALLY DISCARD THAT?
BASIC HALF FLUSH...
HA-HA!
.....?





*MIXED TRIPLE CHOW: THREE IDENTICAL CHOWS IN THREE DIFFERENT SUITS

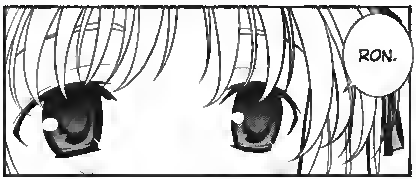


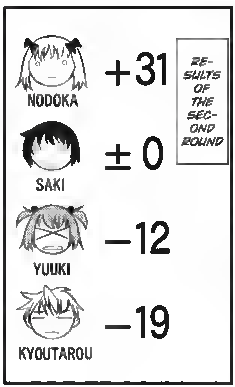
NODOKA IS UNSTOPPABLE!
トゾ

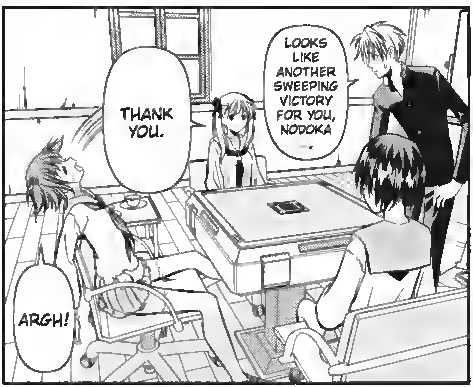
TSUMO.

.....
EAST-SOUTH GAME SECOND ROUND

AH...
TSUMO FOR ME TOO.

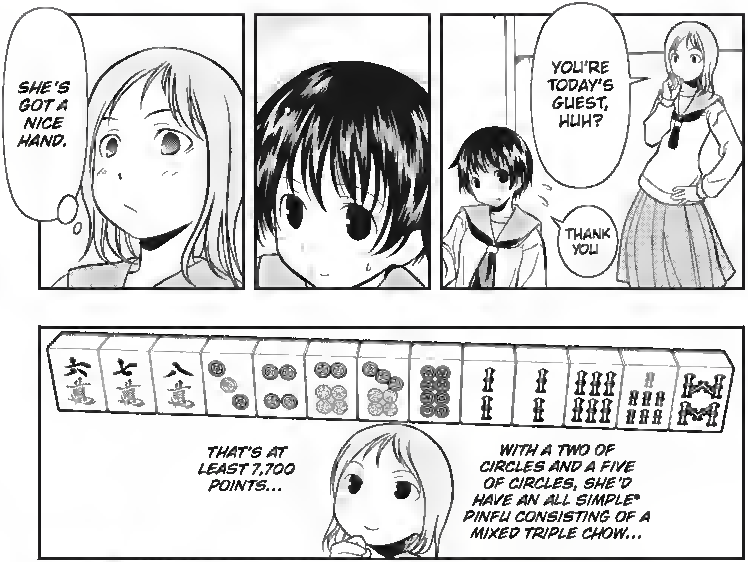

RON.


NODOKA
+31
SAKI
±0
YUUKI
−12
KYOUTAROU
−19
RESULTS OF THE SECOND ROUND

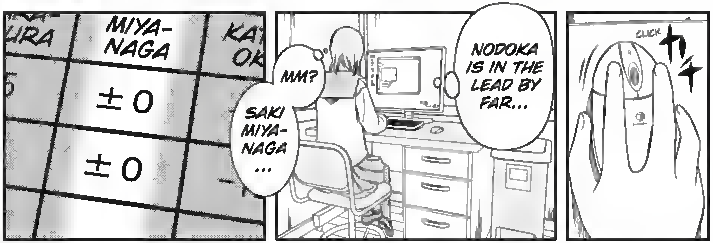

LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER SWEEPING VICTORY FOR YOU, NODOKA.
THANK YOU.
ARGH!

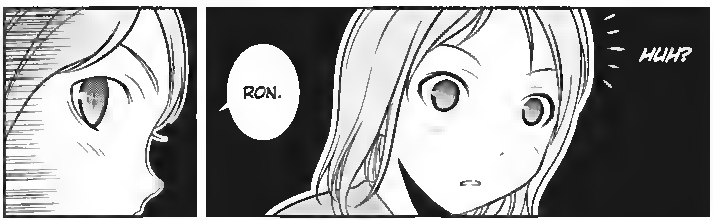
THUN-
DER!
ゴロゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
.....
ALTHOUGH, YOU DO SEEM TO KNOW HOW TO CALCULATE POINTS.
SAKI, YOUR MAHJONG ISN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT.
EAST-SOUTH GAME THIRD ROUND
!
OH NO! I DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA!
AN EVENING SHOWER ...
IS THAT ...
カ
SWISH
MMM...

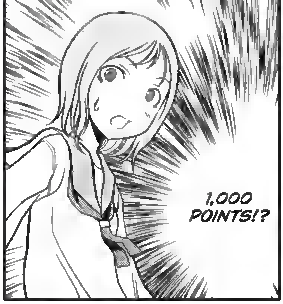
...THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL?
MM?
I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS, NOT STUDENT COUNCIL.
GOOD MORNING.
SHE'S THE CAPTAIN OF THE MAHJONG CLUB.
HISA TAKEI
THIRD-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS
WHY MAHJONG?
BECAUSE I LIKE MAHJONG, OF COURSE.


SHE'S GOT A NICE HAND.
YOU'RE TODAY'S GUEST, HUH?
THANK YOU
THAT'S AT LEAST 7,700 POINTS...
WITH A TWO OF CIRCLES AND A FIVE OF CIRCLES, SHE'D HAVE AN ALL SIMPLE* PINFU CONSISTING OF A MIXED TRIPLE CHOW...

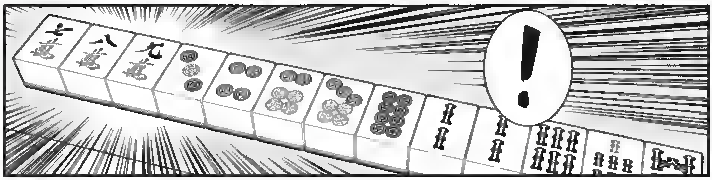
*ALL SIMPLE, A HAND THAT HAS NO 1, 9 OR HONOR (WINDS AND DRAGONS) TILES

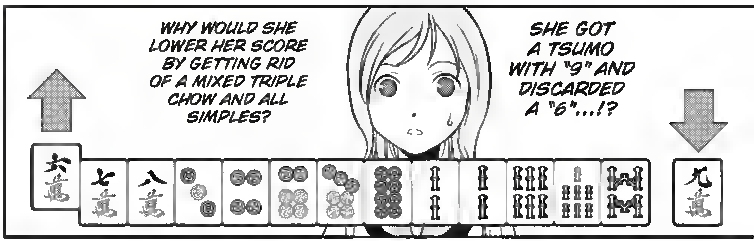





1,000 POINTS!?

1,000 POINTS.
パシ
SLAP


!

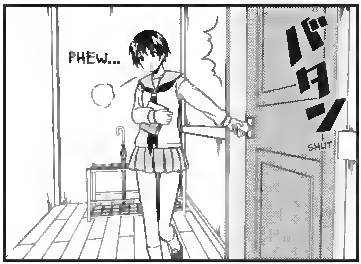

WHY WOULD SHE LOWER HER SCORE BY GETTING RID OF A MIXED TRIPLE CHOW AND ALL SIMPLES?
SHE GOT A TSUMO WITH "9" AND DISCARDED A "6"...!?

I CAN'T UNDER-STAND HOW THIS GIRL PLAYS ...!
I DON'T GET IT...

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, THE "9" ISN'T EVEN A RISKY TILE.

WHAT'S MIYANAGA-SAN'S CURRENT SCORE!?
NODO-CHAN IS STILL IN THE LEAD, HUH?
THE THIRD ROUND IS OVER.
!!
SHE'S GOT PLUS-MINUS ZERO!
PLUS-MINUS ZERO THREE TIMES IN A ROW!?

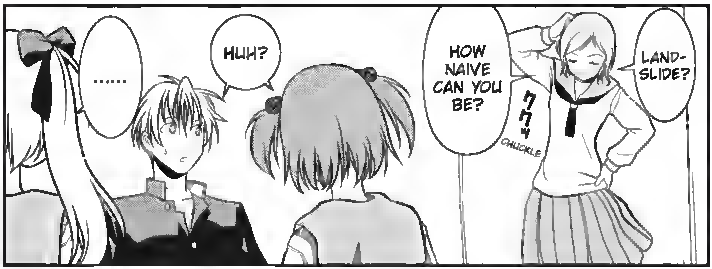
.....
YOU'RE LEAVING AL-READY?
HUH? HEY!
...SO I'M CALLING IT QUITS.
NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE, PRESI-DENT, IT SEEMS YOU HAVE ENOUGH MEM-BERS


PHEW...
バタン
SHUT

I HAVE TO RETURN THIS TO THE LIBRARY.

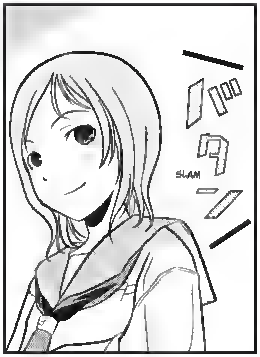
TALK ABOUT A LAND-SLIDE...
ガリッ
CRUNCH

YOU'RE JUST TOO STRONG, NODO-CHAN.

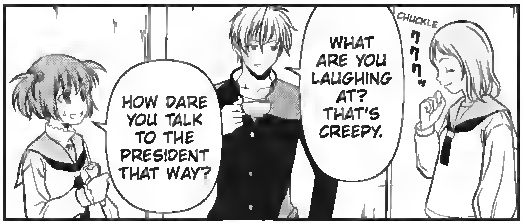

.....
HUH?
HOW NAIVE CAN YOU BE?
フフ
CHUCKLE
LAND-SLIDE?

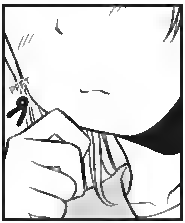
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE WHEN YOU SAW HER SCORE?
MIYA-NAGA
±0
±0
±0
ARE YOU SAYING THAT MIYANAGA-SAN'S...
...THREE ROUNDS OF PLUS-MINUS ZEROS WERE ON PURPOSE?
HUH?
CRUNCH
NO WAY! IT MUST'VE BEEN A COINCI-DENCE.
YEAH!
LUCK IS A FACTOR IN MAHJONG, WHICH IS WHY EVEN THE TOP PROS ONLY WIN 30% OF THE TIME.
TO SAY NOTHING OF GETTING PLUS-MINUS ZERO, WHICH IS EVEN HARDER THAN WINNING...
AND SHE GOT A STRING OF THEM?
ARE YOU CALL-ING IT IMPOS-SIBLE?
BUT WHAT IF...

ゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
DROP
ぽろ…
ピカッ
FLASH
…WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MIND-BOGGLING ABILITY!?

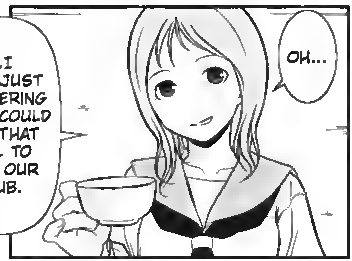

SLAM

NODO-CHAN!
DASH


HOW DARE YOU TALK TO THE PRESIDENT THAT WAY?
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? THAT'S CREEPY.
CHUCKLE



HUH?
WE MIGHT HAVE A SHOT AT NATIONALS THEN.
...I WAS JUST WONDERING IF WE COULD GET THAT GIRL TO JOIN OUR CLUB.


OH...

ナ…
MIYA-
NAGA-
SAN!
!

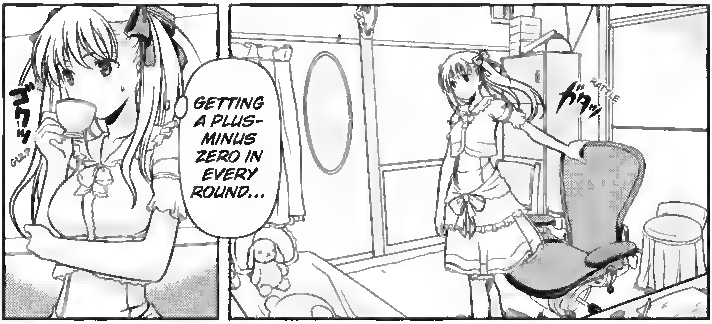
DID YOU GET THREE PLUS-MINUS ZEROS IN A ROW...
...ON PURPOSE?
THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS ...
...WHEN I PLAY.
WHA...?

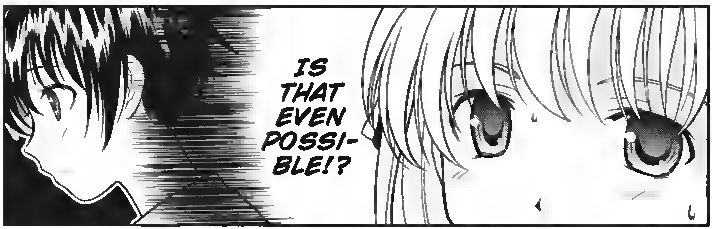
PLAYING MAHJONG WITH MY FAMILY
WHY DO YOU...
...PLAY LIKE THAT?
SAKI, SIX YEARS OLD
...I LEARNED HOW NOT TO LOSE SO I COULD HOLD ON TO MY NEW YEAR'S MONEY...
...BUT THEY'D ALSO GET MAD AT ME IF I WON, SO I LEARNED HOW NOT TO WIN TOO.
ONE MORE TIME...
WOULD YOU... ...PLAY ME ONE MORE TIME?
.....

GGGGG
I'M SORRY.
I DON'T...
...REALLY LIKE MAHJONG THAT MUCH.

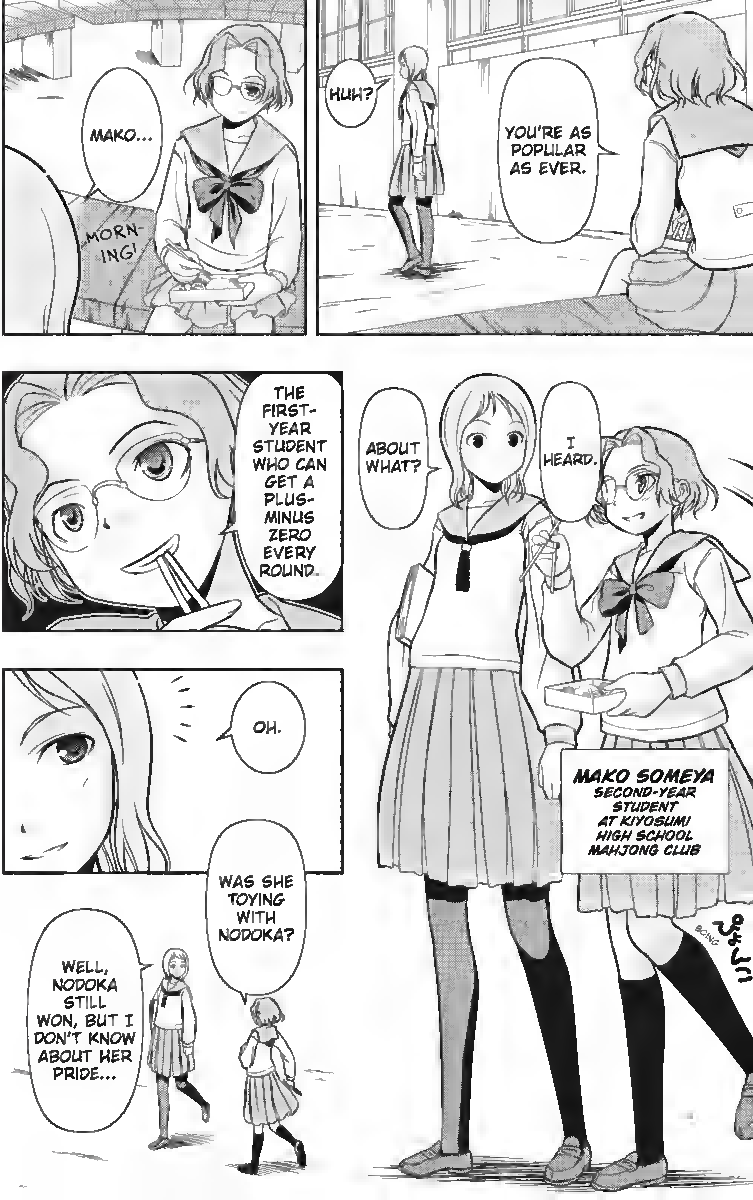
CHAPTER 2: REMATCH

THE RAIN FINALLY STOPPED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
GAME OVER.
BEEP
NODOCCHI
CLICK
カチ
IT'S TOUGH ...


GETTING A PLUS-MINUS ZERO IN EVERY ROUND...

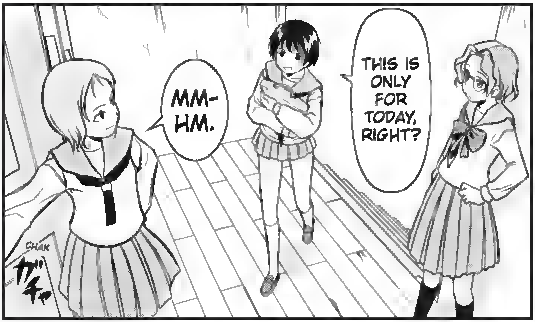

IS THAT EVEN POSSI-BLE!?

OH!
GOOD MORN-ING!
GOOD MORN-ING!
GOOD MORNING, PRESIDENT!

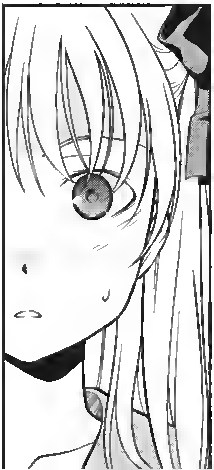

MAKO...
MORN-ING!
HUH?
YOU'RE AS POPULAR AS EVER.
I HEARD.
ABOUT WHAT?
THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENT WHO CAN GET A PLUS-MINUS ZERO EVERY ROUND.
MAKO SOMEYA
SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB
OH.
WAS SHE TOYING WITH NODOKA?
WELL, NODOKA STILL WON, BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER PRIDE...

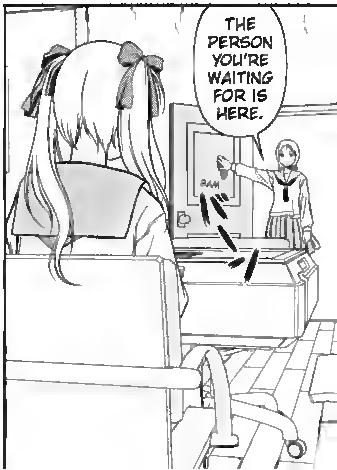
Library
BUZZ
BUZZ
ガヤガヤ
THAT'S CURRENTLY CHECKED OUT.
REALLY ...?
WHAT'S CHECKED OUT?
LET'S SEE...
ピクッ twitch
PRESIDENT!
HI.
I HAVE THAT BOOK. THE WHOLE SERIES, ACTUALLY.
WANT TO BORROW IT?
IT'S NOT GOOD TO PEEK.
YOU MEAN IT?
IN EXCHANGE ...

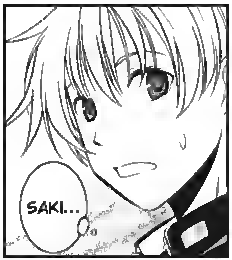
...I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU, MIYA-NAGA-SAN.
HUH?
AGAIN...?


MM-HM.
THIS IS ONLY FOR TODAY, RIGHT?
SHUK

Mahjong Club

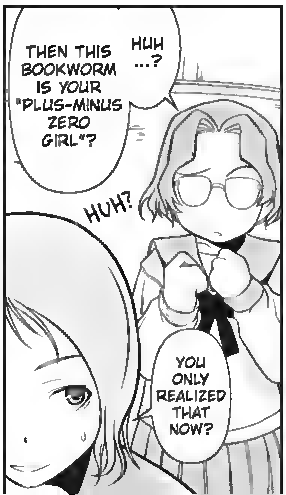


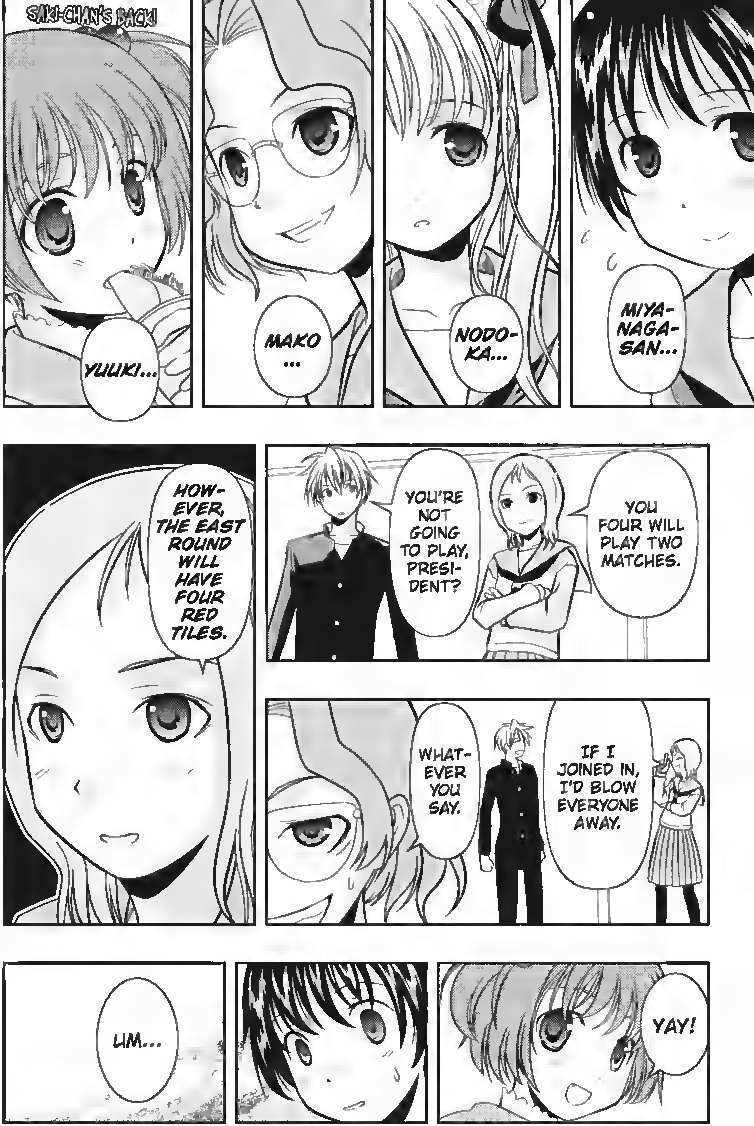

THE PERSON YOU'RE WAITING FOR IS HERE.
RAM


SAKI...

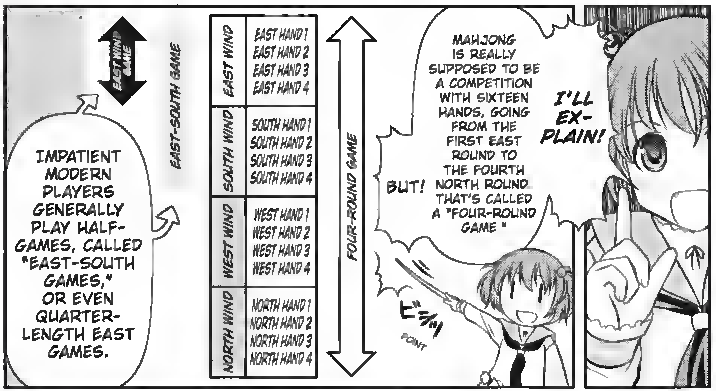
SUGA-KUN, CALL YUUKI OVER.
AH... SURE.

YUUKI, THE OTHER MEM-BERS ARE HERE.
A'IGHT!
I'M ON MY WAY!


HUH ...?
THEN THIS BOOKWORM IS YOUR "PLUS-MINUS ZERO GIRL"?
HUH?
YOU ONLY REALIZED THAT NOW?

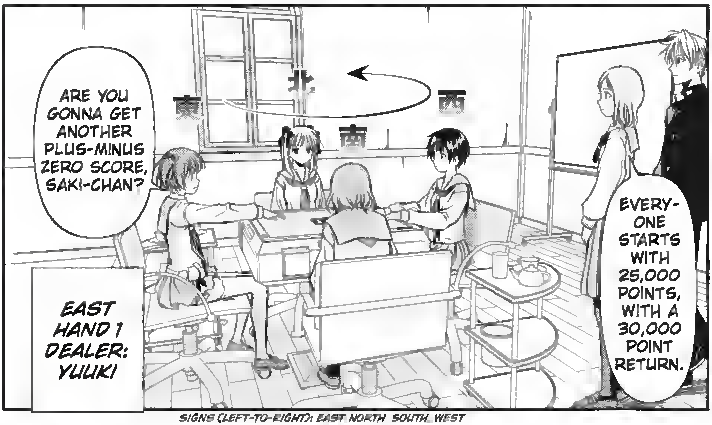

SUKI-CHAN'S BACK!
YUUKI...
MAKO ...
NODO-KA...
MIYA-NAGA-SAN...
HOW-EVER, THE EAST ROUND WILL HAVE FOUR RED TILES.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PLAY, PRESI-DENT?
YOU FOUR WILL PLAY TWO MATCHES.
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY.
IF I JOINED IN, I'D BLOW EVERYONE AWAY.
UM...
YAY!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A MEMBER OF THE MAHJONG CLUB?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

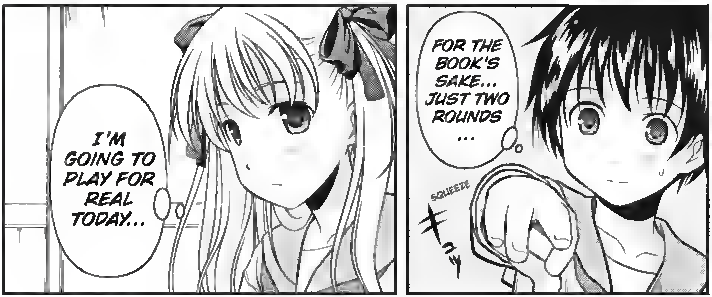

EAST-SOUTH GAME
EAST WIND GAME
IMPATIENT MODERN PLAYERS GENERALLY PLAY HALF-GAMES, CALLED "EAST-SOUTH GAMES," OR EVEN QUARTER-LENGTH EAST GAMES.
EAST WIND
EAST HAND 1
EAST HAND 2
EAST HAND 3
EAST HAND 4
SOUTH WIND
SOUTH HAND 1
SOUTH HAND 2
SOUTH HAND 3
SOUTH HAND 4
WEST WIND
WEST HAND 1
WEST HAND 2
WEST HAND 3
WEST HAND 4
NORTH WIND
NORTH HAND 1
NORTH HAND 2
NORTH HAND 3
NORTH HAND 4
FOUR-ROUND GAME
MAHJONG IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE A COMPETITION WITH SIXTEEN HANDS, GOING FROM THE FIRST EAST ROUND TO THE FOURTH NORTH ROUND. BUT! THAT'S CALLED A "FOUR-ROUND GAME."
I'LL EX-PLAIN!
ピラリ
POINT

BUT...
...THIS IS "RED."
ゴゴゴ
WE ALWAYS PLAY TO SOUTH HAND 4, SO...
...IT'S AN EAST-SOUTH GAME.

DORA. SPECIAL TILES THAT BOOST A HAND ONE GRADE UP (INCREASING THE HAN BY ONE). NORMALLY, THERE ARE FOUR OF THESE TILES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE GAME

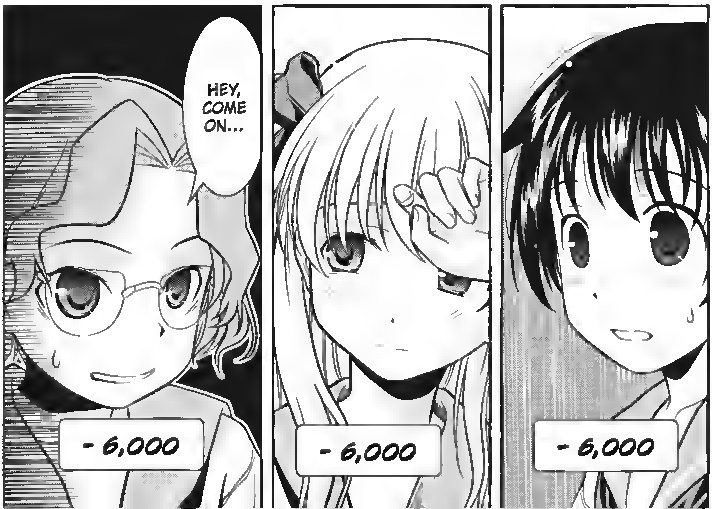

ARE YOU GONNA GET ANOTHER PLUS-MINUS ZERO SCORE, SAKI-CHAN?
EAST HAND 1 DEALER: YUUKI
EVERY-ONE STARTS WITH 25,000 POINTS, WITH A 30,000 POINT RETURN.

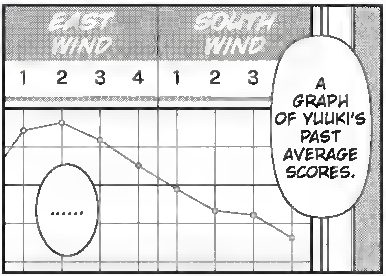
SIGNS (LEFT-TO-RIGHT): EAST, NORTH, SOUTH, WEST



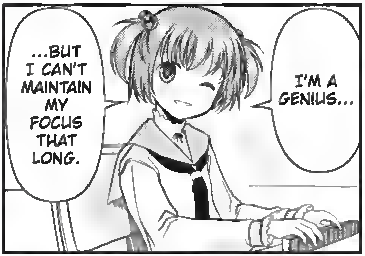
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, SCORING A PLUS-MINUS ZERO EVERY TIME IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THAT WAS FAST.
THE DEAL-ER...
...SAYS RIICHI! HERE I GO!
ON THE SECOND TURN...
...I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
CLACK
カッ
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
トン

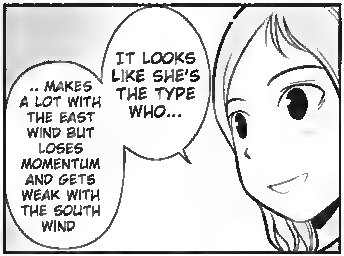
BOOM!
ONE SHOT RIICHI TSUMO! THREE DORA, 18,000!!
+ 18,000


HEY, COME ON...
- 6,000
- 6,000
- 6,000

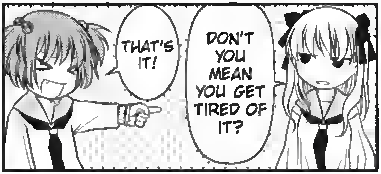

EAST WIND
SOUTH WIND
1 2 3 4 1 2 3
A GRAPH OF YUUKI'S PAST AVERAGE SCORES.
.....

LOOK AT THIS.
HUH?


I'M A GENIUS...
...BUT I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY FOCUS THAT LONG.


IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S THE TYPE WHO...
.. MAKES A LOT WITH THE EAST WIND BUT LOSES MOMENTUM AND GETS WEAK WITH THE SOUTH WIND

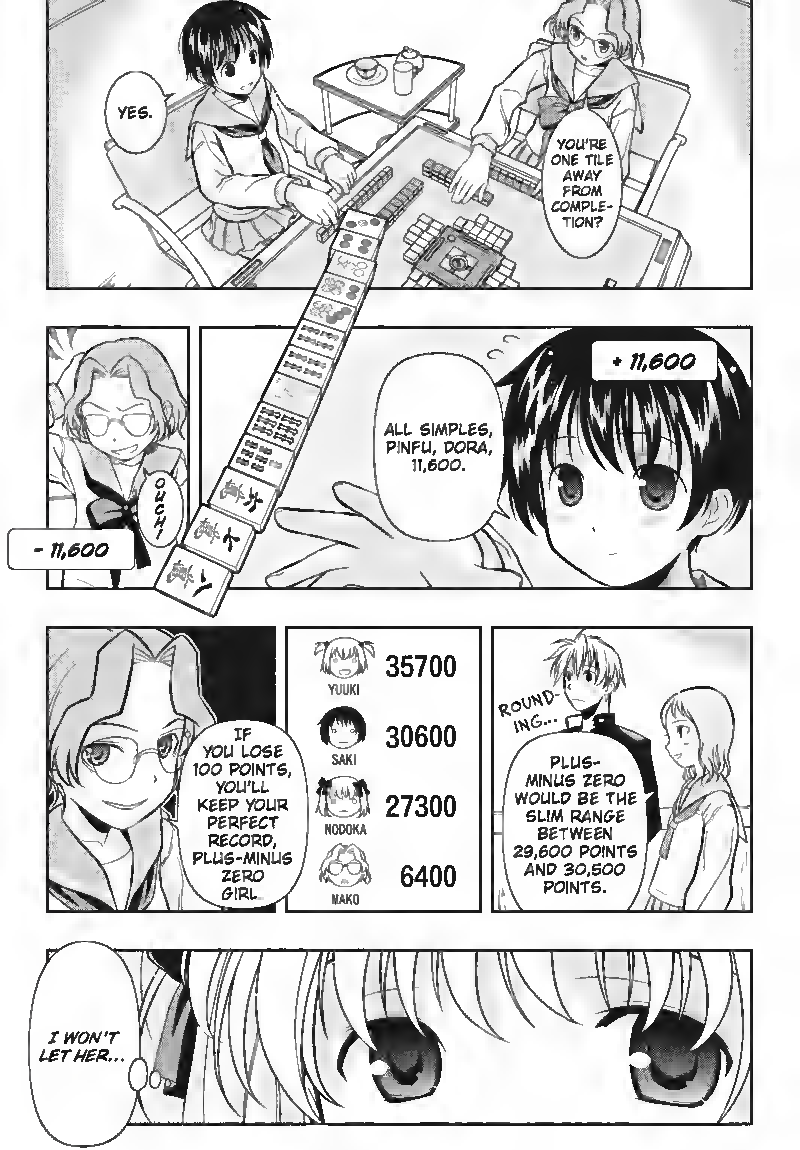
.....

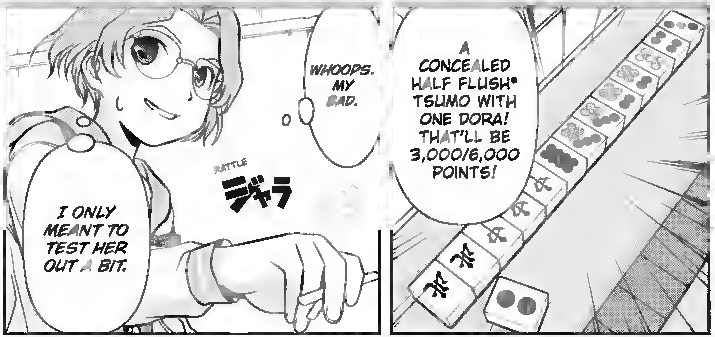

THAT'S IT!
DON'T YOU MEAN YOU GET TIRED OF IT?

ON TOP OF THAT, THIS GAME IS HALF THE LENGTH OF YESTERDAY'S SHORT BATTLE... IT SHOULD BE EVEN HARDER FOR HER TO GET A ZERO.

UP TO NOW, "RED" HAS EMPHASIZED THE ELEMENT OF LUCK.
THE DEALER WILL TAKE IT WITH TWO RED TILES, 12,000 ...
WITHOUT A RED AND ONE SHOT, IT'LL BE A 3,900 DEAGARI HAND...

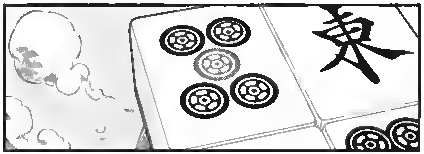
TILE: EAST
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 1
RON. 8,300.
- 8,300
SO-MEYA-SENPAI JUST DISCARDED THAT!
WHAT!?
PAT
+ 8,300
I'M GOING AFTER YOU.
YUUKI-CHAN IS TRYING TO ESCAPE...
.....
EAST HAND 2
WHAT!?
THERE!
1,000!
- 1,000
+ 1,000
CLICK
RED ACTUALLY SAVED HER HERE.
EAST HAND 3 DEALER: SAKI


YES.
YOU'RE ONE TILE AWAY FROM COMPLE-TION?
+ 11,600
ALL SIMPLES, PINFU, DORA, 11,600.
OUCH!
- 11,600
IF YOU LOSE 100 POINTS, YOU'LL KEEP YOUR PERFECT RECORD, PLUS-MINUS ZERO GIRL
YUUKI 35700
SAKI 30600
NODOKA 27300
MAKO 6400
ROUND-ING...
PLUS-MINUS ZERO WOULD BE THE SLIM RANGE BETWEEN 29,600 POINTS AND 30,500 POINTS.
I WON'T LET HER...


WHOOPS. MY BAD.
RATTLE
ガラ
I ONLY MEANT TO TEST HER OUT A BIT.
A CONCEALED HALF FLUSH* TSUMO WITH ONE DORA! THAT'LL BE 3,000/6,000 POINTS!

*CONCEALED HALF FLUSH: A HAND IN WHICH NO TILES ARE CALLED (CONCEALED) AND INCLUDES ONLY ONE SUIT PLUS DRAGONS OR WINDS. WORTH 3 HAN.

CAN YOU GET THROUGH THIS?
TAP
トン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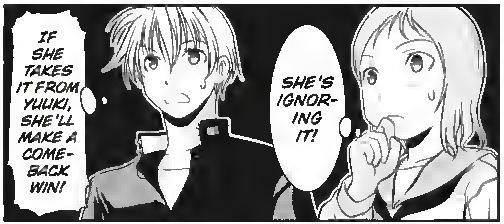
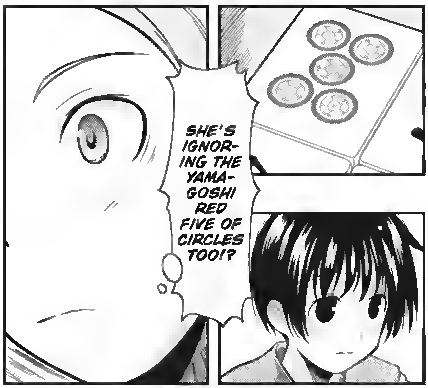
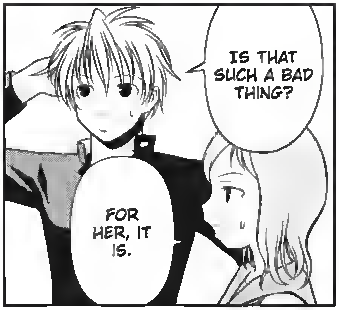
NOW SAKI HAS A CONCEALED HALF FLUSH TENPAI.
IF SHE GETS A FIVE OF CIRCLES AND AN EIGHT OF CIRCLES, THAT'LL BE 5,200 POINTS, JUST WHAT SHE NEEDS FOR A PLUS-MINUS ZERO...

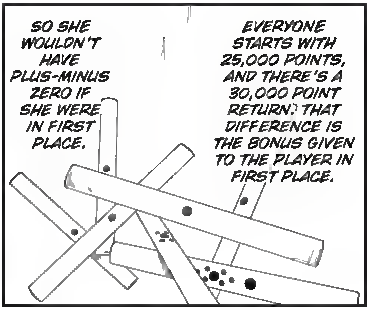

IF SHE TAKES IT FROM YUUKI, SHE'LL MAKE A COME-BACK WIN!
SHE'S IGNOR-ING IT!

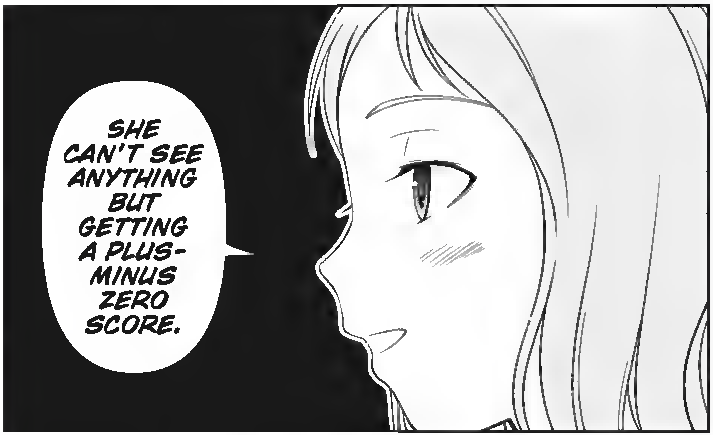

SHE'S IGNOR-ING THE YAMA-GOSHI RED FIVE OF CIRCLES TOO!?

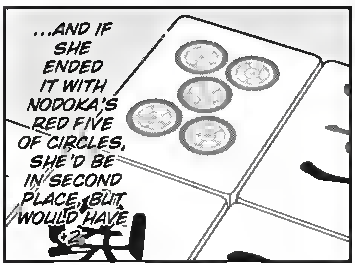
.....
CLACK

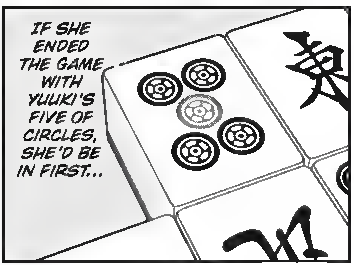
THIS GIRL...
SHE THINKS NOTHING OF WINNING!?
WHY WON'T SHE JUST WIN IT?
OUR RULES DON'T HAVE A PROPORTIONAL BONUS, BUT THEY DO HAVE A WINNER BONUS.
A WINNER BONUS?


IS THAT SUCH A BAD THING?
FOR HER, IT IS.


SO SHE WOULDN'T HAVE PLUS-MINUS ZERO IF SHE WERE IN FIRST PLACE.
EVERYONE STARTS WITH 25,000 POINTS, AND THERE'S A 30,000 POINT RETURN. THAT DIFFERENCE IS THE BONUS GIVEN TO THE PLAYER IN FIRST PLACE.


SHE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT GETTING A PLUS-MINUS ZERO SCORE.


...AND IF SHE ENDED IT WITH NODOKA'S RED FIVE OF CIRCLES, SHE'D BE IN SECOND PLACE, BUT WOULD HAVE +2.


IF SHE ENDED THE GAME WITH YUUKI'S FIVE OF CIRCLES, SHE'D BE IN FIRST...

RIICHI!
MIYANAGA-SAN IS PROBABLY AIMING FOR 5,200 POINTS...
...BUT...
SQUEEZE
A RIICHI STICK!
...WHAT'LL SHE DO IF I PUT MY RIICHI STICK DOWN?
SO, TO GET PLUS-MINUS ZERO NOW, SAKI-CHAN WOULD HAVE TO END IT WITH 70 MINIPOINTS AND 2 HAN.
CHEW
NODOKA CAN BE MALI-CIOUS TOO!

THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS WITH A 70 MINIPOINT AND 2 HAN HAND.
TO GET PLUS-MINUS ZERO NOW, SHE'D HAVE TO SCORE BETWEEN 4,100 AND 5,000 POINTS.
SO THERE'S AN EXTRA 1,000 POINTS ON THE TABLE?
IS IT EVEN RARER THAN A YAKUMAN?
70 MINI-POINTS ...
AND EVEN MORE DIFFICULT, SINCE SHE HAS TO MAKE IT WITH 2 HAN.
EVEN IF I LOOKED AT THE CLUB RECORDS, I DON'T KNOW THAT I'D FIND A 70-MINIPOINT HAND OUT OF THE LAST THOUSAND HANDS.
...AND CHANGE A 40-MINIPOINT AND 3-HAN HAND TO A 70-MINIPOINT AND 2-HAN HAND?
CAN YOU DODGE MY RIICHI...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THAT RIGHT NOW.
70 MINI-POINTS .. THERE'S LESS THAN A 0.1% CHANCE.
WAIT...
SHIVER
IT'S OVER.
THAT'S ...!!

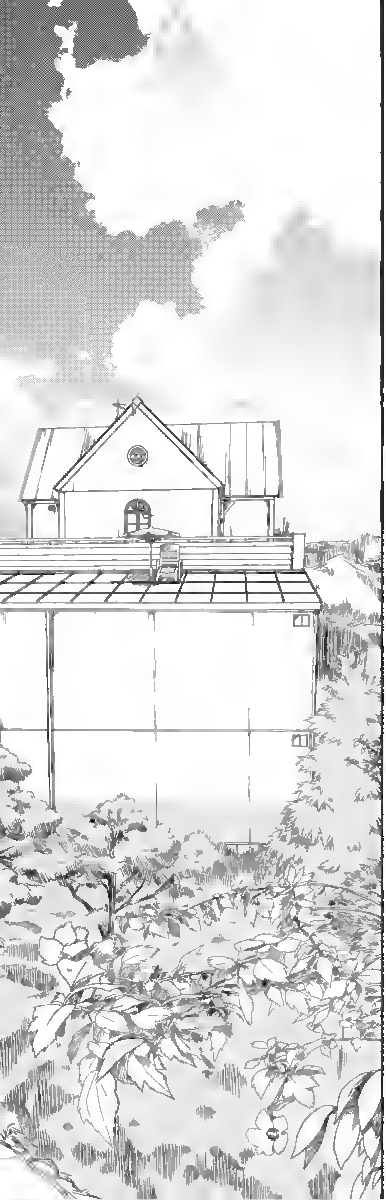
KONG!
ガン
WHAT ...?
STILL, ENDING WITH 70 MINIPOINTS AND TWO HAN REQUIRES LUCK...
...AND I MEAN ...

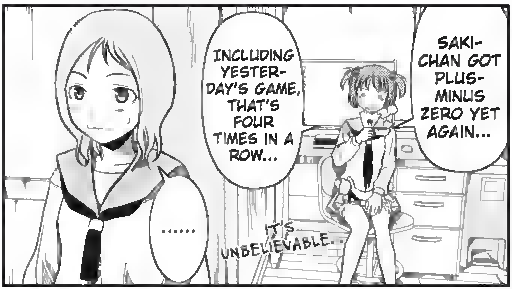
...SUPER-HUMAN LUCK...
...THE KIND THAT WOULD REIGN OVER THIS ROOM!

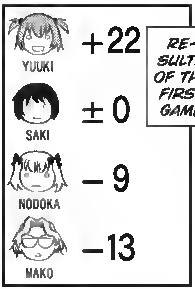
PEOPLE WOULD CALL THAT A MIRACLE.

FLOWER ON THE MOUN-TAIN-TOP!
SOMEONE WHO MAKES MIRACLES POSSIBLE ...

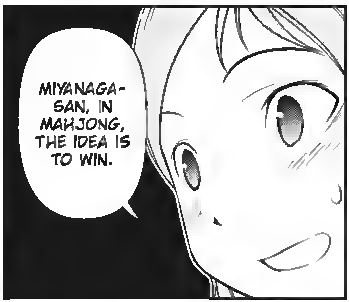
A 70-MINIPOINT 2-HAN HAND IS 1,200/2,300 POINTS.
!!
...IS EITHER A GOD OR A DEMON!!

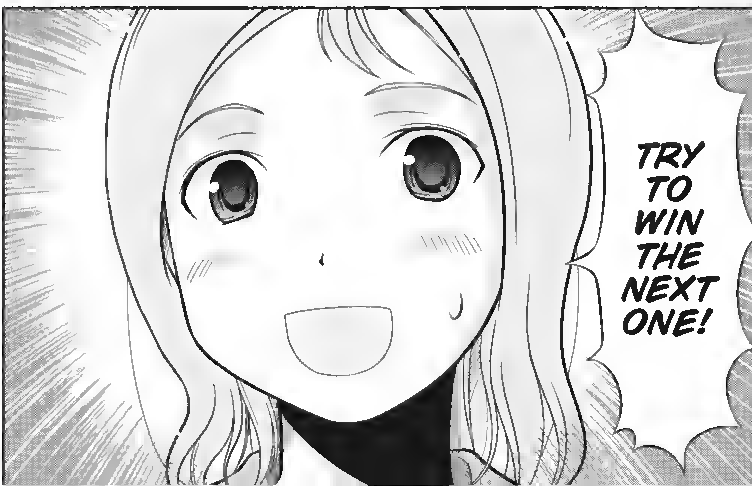



SAKI-CHAN GOT PLUS-MINUS ZERO YET AGAIN...
INCLUDING YESTER-DAY'S GAME, THAT'S FOUR TIMES IN A ROW...
.....
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE...


RE-SULTS OF THE FIRST GAME
YUUKI
+22
SAKI
±0
NODOKA
−9
MAKO
−13

HUH...?


MIYANAGA-SAN, IN MAHJONG, THE IDEA IS TO WIN.


TRY TO WIN THE NEXT ONE!

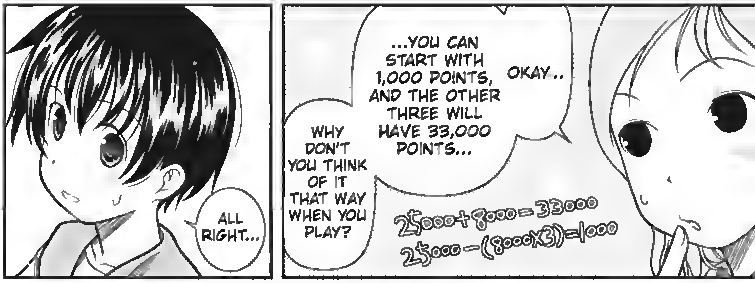
CHAPTER 3/HAND 0: SHOWDOWN

O...
OKAY.
GONG
ガン

"OKAY"...?
WHA ...?

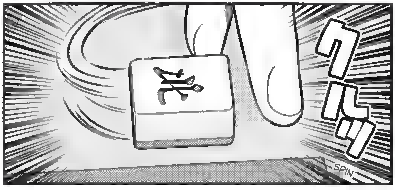
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE DEFI-NITELY GOING TO WIN!?
"WINNING"... THAT MEANS HAVING THE TOP SCORE, RIGHT?
BUT...

BLUMP
ガヴ
...I CAN'T HAVE THE TOP SCORE WHEN I'M AT PLUS-MINUS ZERO.

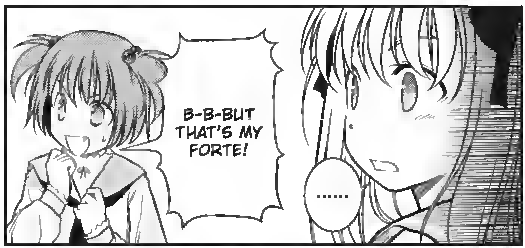

ALL RIGHT...
WHY DON'T YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY WHEN YOU PLAY?
...YOU CAN START WITH 1,000 POINTS, AND THE OTHER THREE WILL HAVE 33,000 POINTS...
OKAY..
25000+8000=33000
25000-(8000×3)=1000

IT SOUNDS TOUGH...
SO IF I GET PLUS-MINUS ZERO THIS WAY, THEN I "WIN," RIGHT?

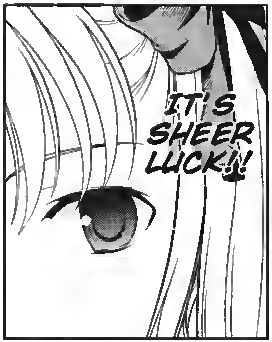
SECOND MATCH EAST HAND 1 DEALER: YUUKI
F'WOOO
MIYANAGA-SAN HAS SCORED PLUS-MINUS ZERO FOUR TIMES IN A ROW...
FLASH
SCORE ADJUSTING AND THE SKILL TO WIN ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
STARE
SHE CAN'T BE SURE SHE'S GOING TO WIN...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE



DOUBLE RIICHI. DECLARING RIICHI WHEN YOU DISCARD THE FIRST TILE. WORTH 2 HAN INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 1.

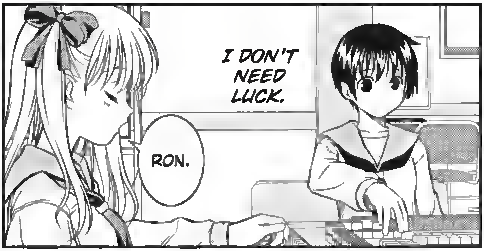


SPECIAL WALL STACKING. A METHOD OF CHEATING IN WHICH YOU STACK THE WALL OF TILES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE


IT'S SHEER LUCK!!

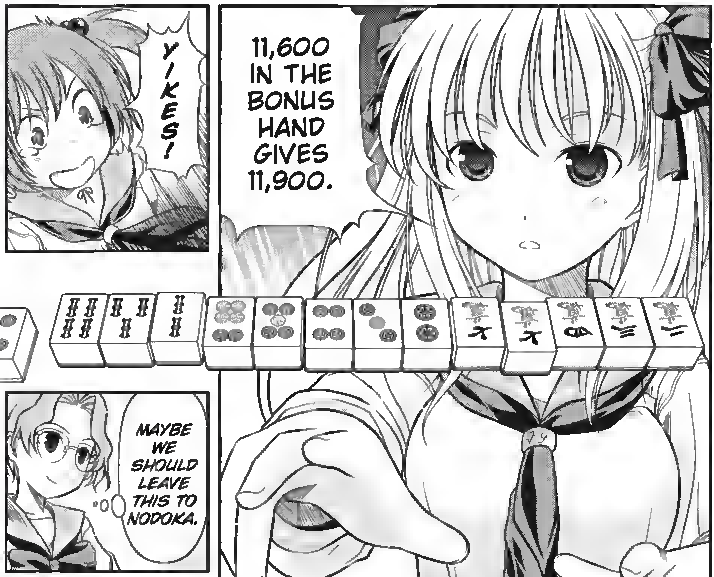
EAST HAND 2 DEALER: SAKI
THAT KIND OF THING DOESN'T LAST FOREV-ER...

7,700.


I DON'T NEED LUCK.
RON.

I'M GOING TO WIN IT THIS TURN!!
EAST HAND 3 DEALER: NODOKA
TSU-MO.

IF IT GOES THROUGH, RIICHI!!
EAST HAND 3 BONUS HAND 1
4,000 FROM EACH PERSON.
LOOSE
IT WON'T GO THROUGH ...
CLACK


YIKES!
11,600 IN THE BONUS HAND GIVES 11,900.
MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS TO NODOKA.

NOW I'M 33,400 POINTS AHEAD...
I'VE PULLED AWAY!!

AT THIS RATE, WILL MIYA-NAGA-SAN JUST LOSE?
EAST HAND 4 DEALER: MAKO
HOWEVER, AFTER THAT, YUUKI WON 7,000 POINTS FROM NODOKA, AND THE MATCH WENT INTO ITS FINAL HAND.

EVEN IF SHE GETS +8,000 POINTS WITH A MANGAN, SHE'LL BE AT -1.
IS THIS THE END FOR LITTLE MISS ZERO?
EVEN IF MIYANAGA-SAN GETS A HANEMAN, I'LL STILL HAVE A SOLID LEAD...
RII-CHI!!
AS LONG AS NO ONE DOES A RIICHI...
IF SHE CAN DELIBER-ATELY PULL OFF PLUS-MINUS ZEROS...
...SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIN TOO.
キュッ
IF...

IF SHE DOESN'T FEEL ANY PRESSURE TO WIN...!!

WHA ...!?
IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO WIN TODAY, RIGHT?

KONG.
WEST KONG AGAIN !?

TSU-MO.
FOUR CON-CEALED TRIP-LETS!

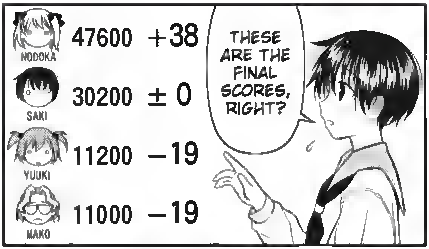
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

SHIVER

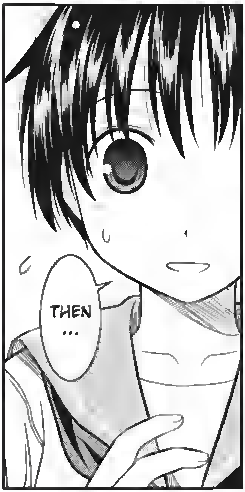
.....
BEFORE, I ALWAYS LET IT GO WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE...

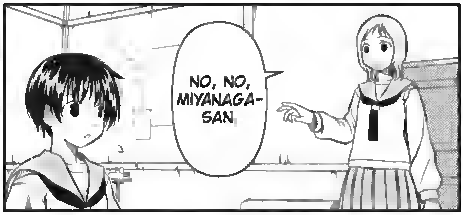
BLUSH
THIS IS...
...THE FIRST TIME I'VE GOTTEN A YAKUMAN.
QUIVER
QUIVER

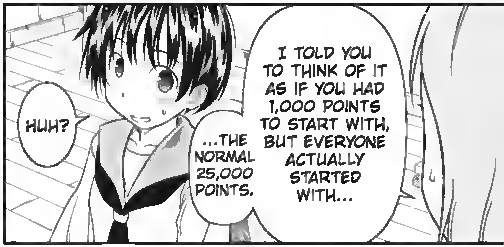
RATTLE
ガシャ
BUT WINNING IS HARD.
I ENDED UP GETTING PLUS-MINUS ZERO AGAIN.
SAY WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SAKI-CHAN?
AND HARAMURA-SAN WON THE MATCH.
!?
!
HUH ...?


NODOKA 47600 +38
SAKI 30200 ± 0
YUUKI 11200 −19
MAKO 11000 −19
THESE ARE THE FINAL SCORES, RIGHT?

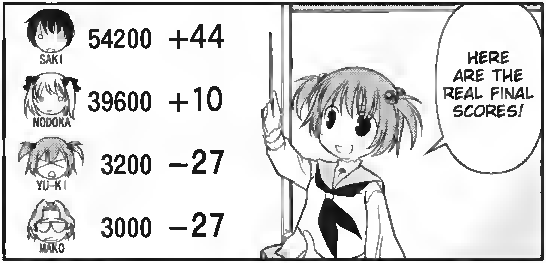
I STARTED WITH 1,000 POINTS, SO THAT PUTS ME IN SECOND PLACE.


THEN ...


NO, NO, MIYANAGA-SAN.


HUH?
...THE NORMAL 25,000 POINTS.
I TOLD YOU TO THINK OF IT AS IF YOU HAD 1,000 POINTS TO START WITH, BUT EVERYONE ACTUALLY STARTED WITH...

THEN ...


SAKI 54200 +44
NODOKA 39600 +10
YU-KI 3200 −27
MAKO 3000 −27
HERE ARE THE REAL FINAL SCORES!

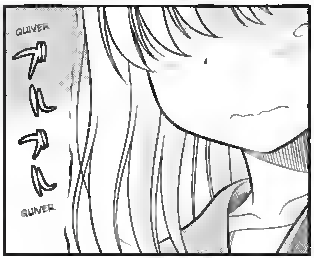
END OF THE GAME
YOU WON.

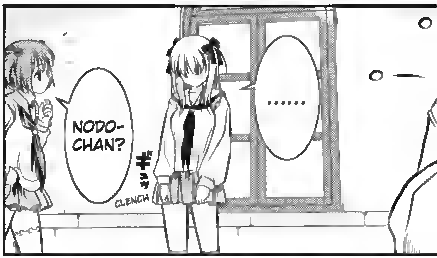
YOU'VE GOT A SAVING GRACE AFTER ALL, SAKI.
AND TO THINK, SHE WON WHILE TRYING TO GET ANOTHER ZERO...
YOU'RE AMAZING, SAKI-CHAN!

I WON?
YEP.
WELL DONE.

I...
トン
THUMP
トン
THUMP

...WÖN!!
トクン
THUMP


QUIVER
ブルブル
QUIVER

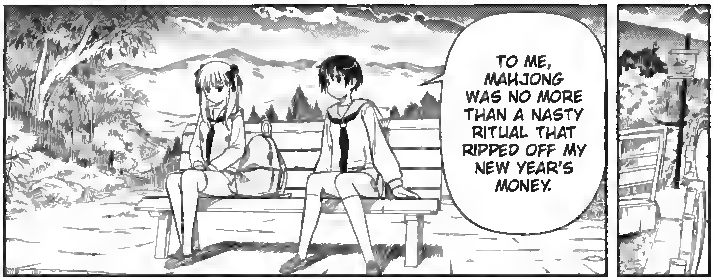

.....
NODO-CHAN?
ギュッ
CLENCH

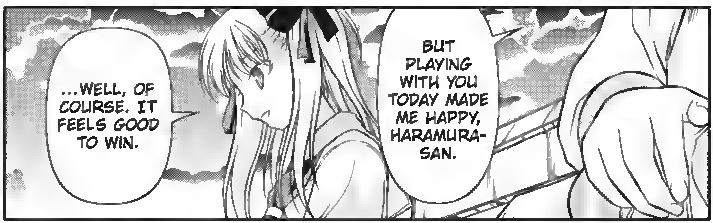
バタン
SLAM
WAS SHE CRY-ING?
NO WAY...

ダッ
DASH
AGAIN?

SWISH
THIS IS OUR COLLECTION FOR MEMBERS TO READ WHILE WAITING TO PLAY
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. MIYANAGA-SAN.
THE BOOK I PROMISED YOU IS IN HERE.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT NODOKA?
IF YOU JOIN THE MAHJONG CLUB, YOU CAN READ ALL YOU WANT!
.....
GO AHEAD.
THE BOOKS WILL BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK.

HARA-MURA-SAN!

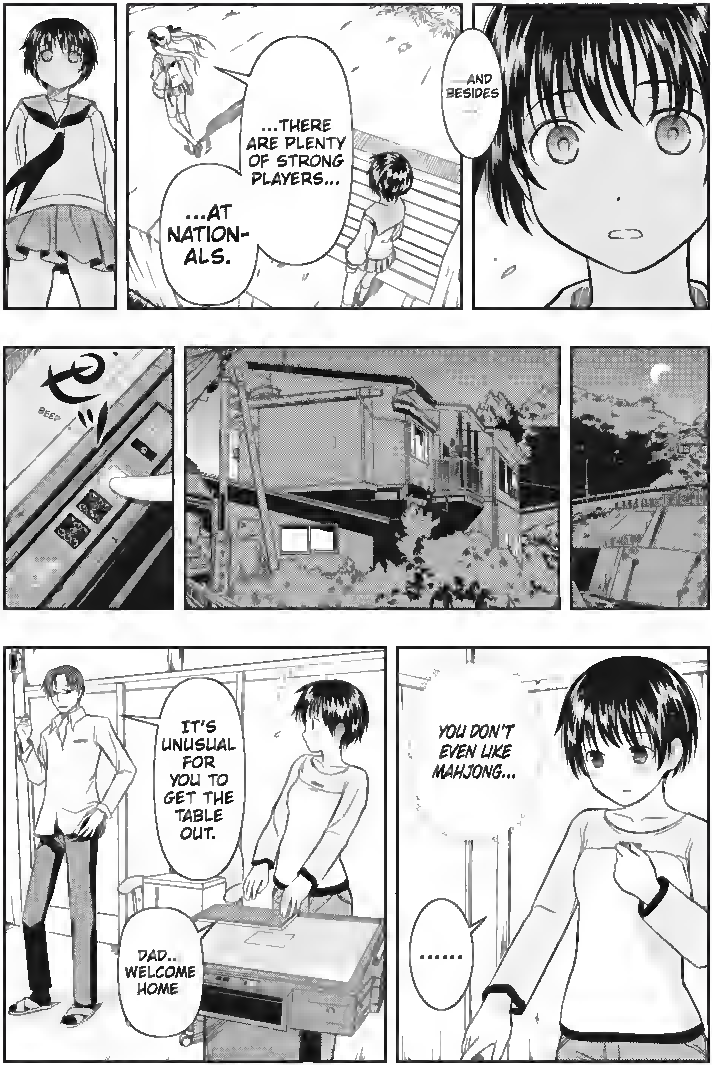

TO ME, MAHJONG WAS NO MORE THAN A NASTY RITUAL THAT RIPPED OFF MY NEW YEAR'S MONEY.

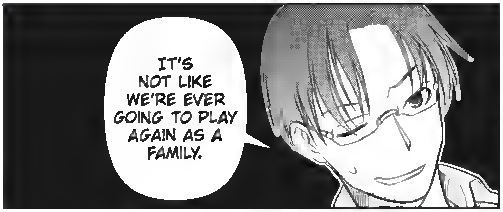

BUT PLAYING WITH YOU TODAY MADE ME HAPPY, HARAMURA-SAN.
...WELL, OF COURSE. IT FEELS GOOD TO WIN.

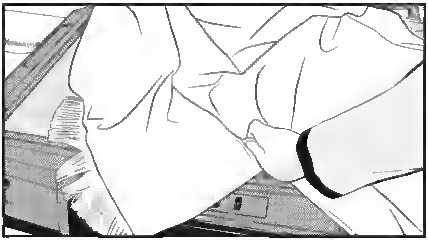
IT FELT DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING WITH MY FAMILY... AND MORE CHALLENGING TOO.
THAT'S NOT IT. IT'S BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING AGAINST YOU, HARAMU-RA-SAN!

IT WAS FUN!
...IT WAS FRUS-TRATING.
.....?
.....
FOR ME...
I LOVE MAHJONG.
SO LOSING TO YOU WAS EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING ...

...
BECAUSE YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE MAHJONG
...


...AT NATION-ALS.
...THERE ARE PLENTY OF STRONG PLAYERS...
...AND BESIDES
BEEP
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO GET THE TABLE OUT.
DAD.. WELCOME HOME
YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE MAHJONG...
.....

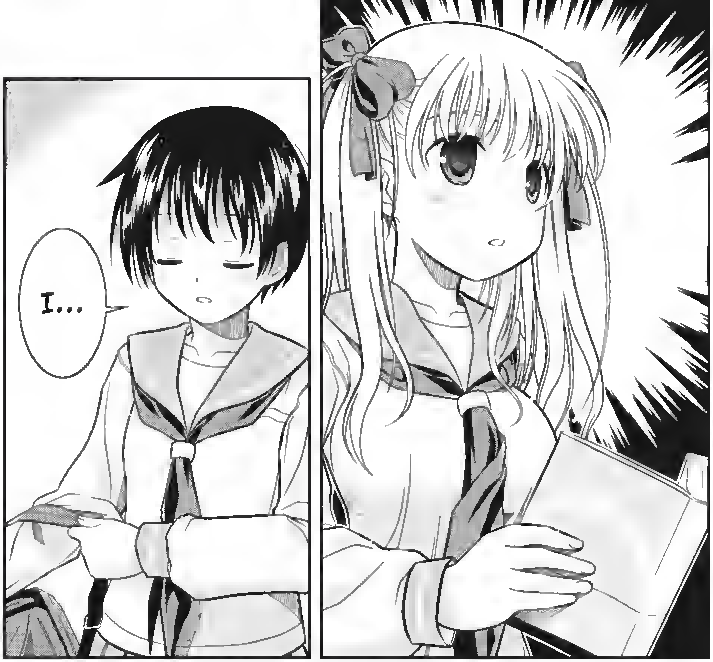




MAGAZINE: WEEKLY MAHJONG TODAY

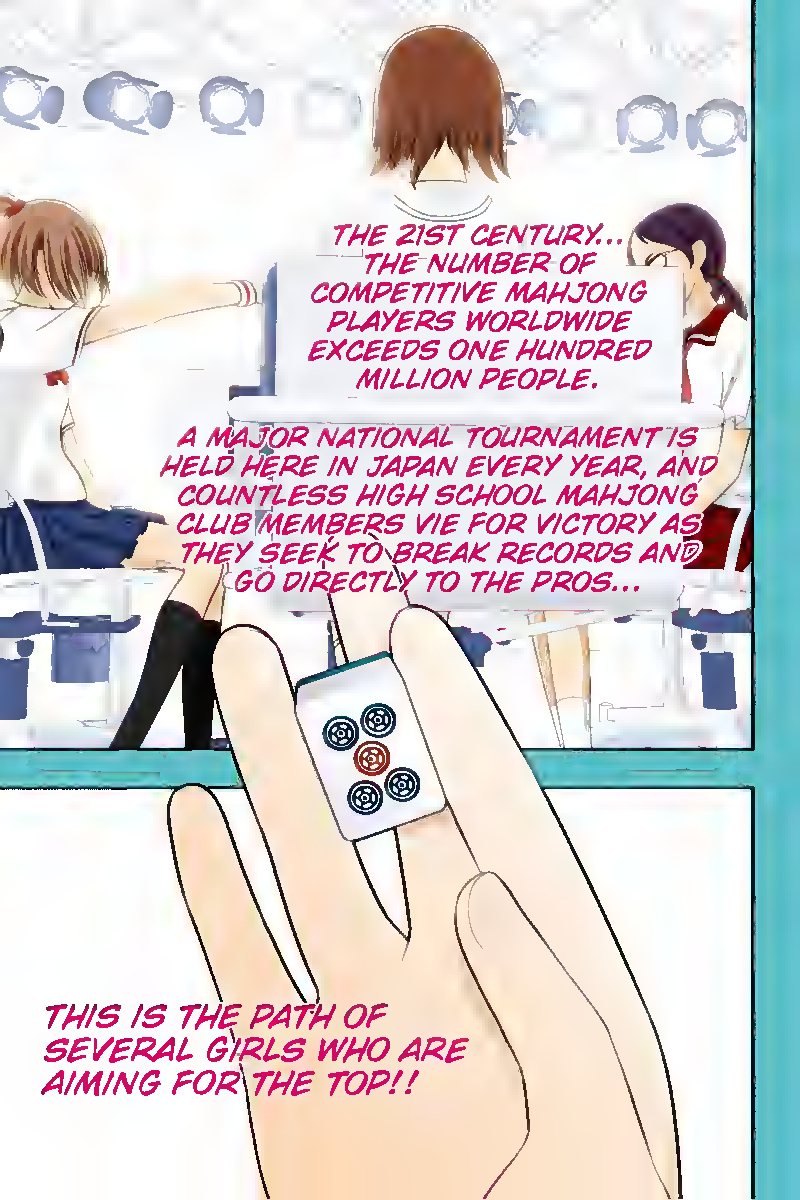
School Tournament Winner
Tenmiyanagi (17)
"I'm aiming to win that too."
.....
SIS...
SQUEEZE
ギュッ
SEE YOU!
BYE!
Mahjong Club
EXCUSE ME.
ガチャ
RATTLE

MI-
YA-
NA-
GA-
SAN!
WILL YOU LET ME JOIN THE CLUB?
SURE!


I...

...WANT TO PLAY AGAINST YOU A LOT MORE, HARA-MURA-SAN!

I WANT TO WIN MORE AT MAHJONG ...!!

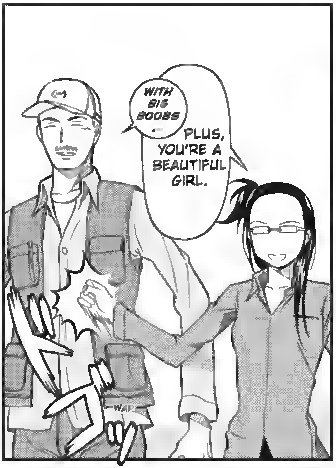

THE 21ST CENTURY... THE NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE MAHJONG PLAYERS WORLDWIDE EXCEEDS ONE HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE.
A MAJOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT IS HELD HERE IN JAPAN EVERY YEAR, AND COUNTLESS HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB MEMBERS VIE FOR VICTORY AS THEY SEEK TO BREAK RECORDS AND GO DIRECTLY TO THE PROS...
THIS IS THE PATH OF SEVERAL GIRLS WHO ARE AIMING FOR THE TOP!!

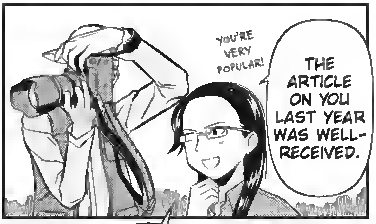
HAND 1: CONFRONTATION

HAND 1: CONFRONTATION

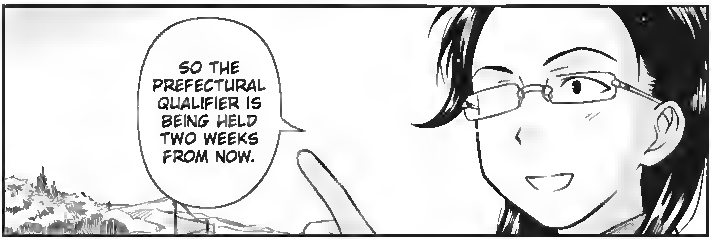
TACOS

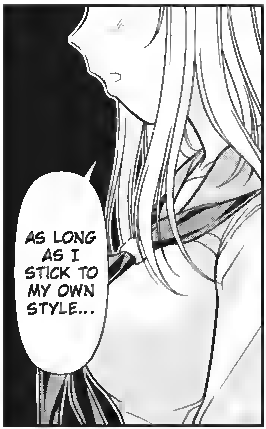
HARA-MURA-SAN!
!
RIPPLE
NODOKA HARAMURA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB
...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
IT'S ME, NISHIDA, FROM WEEKLY MAHJONG TODAY.
I WAS HOPING I COULD INTER-VIEW YOU.





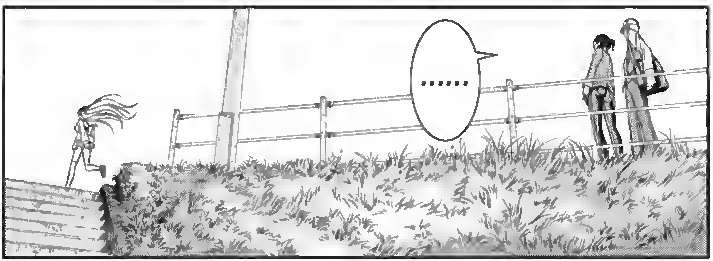
SIGN- NATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

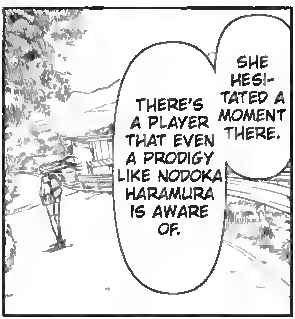


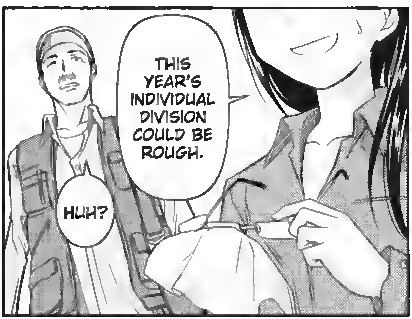

AS LONG AS I STICK TO MY OWN STYLE...

NO, NOT REALLY ...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT CHAMPION SCHOOLS OR PLAYERS ...

...IT DOESN'T MATTER ...
...WHO MY OPPO-NENT IS!


.....

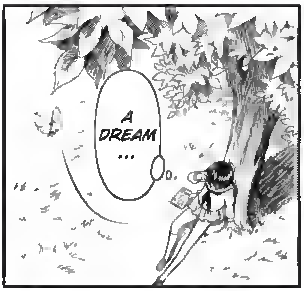

SHE HESI-TATED A MOMENT THERE.
THERE'S A PLAYER THAT EVEN A PRODIGY LIKE NODOKA HARAMURA IS AWARE OF.


THIS YEAR'S INDIVIDUAL DIVISION COULD BE ROUGH.
HUH?

AND NOT ONLY THAT, SHE DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.
I WON-DER...
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
...WHAT KIND OF PLAYER THEY COULD BE.
スースー
SAKI MIYANAGA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB

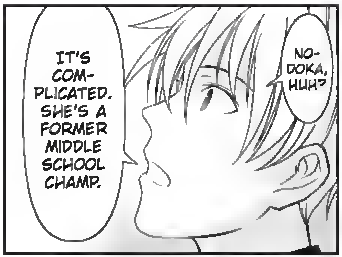
"RINSHAN KAIHO"?
IT'S THE NAME OF A MAHJONG HAND IT LITERALLY MEANS "A FLOWER BLOOMS AT THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN."
BLOOMS?
THAT'S LIKE MY NAME!
MY NAME MEANS "BLOOM"!!

...SAKI.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AT THE SUMMIT OF A TALL MOUNTAIN, FAR ABOVE THE TREE LINE...
...A FLOWER BLOOMS.
JUST LIKE THAT FLOWER...
...BE STRONG AND BLOOM, SAKI.



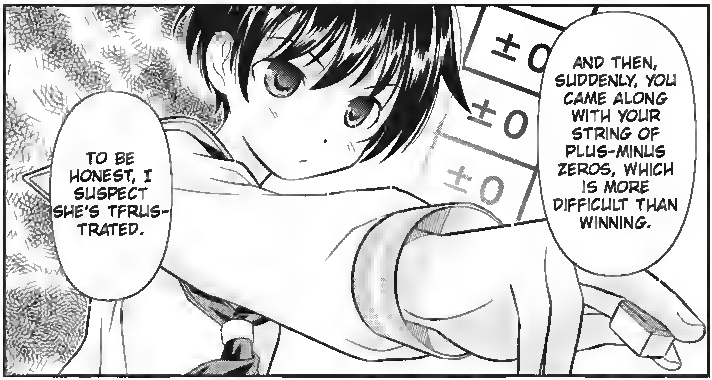
MAGAZINE: WEEKLY MAHJONG TODAY

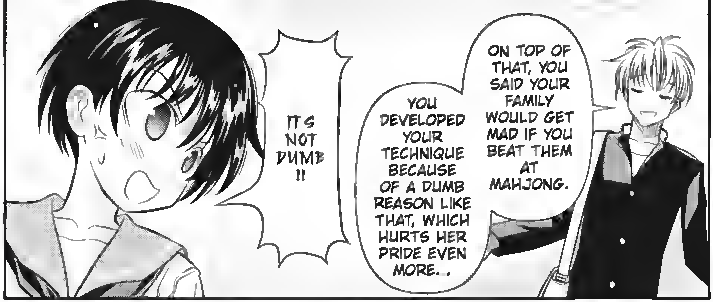
SAKI!
SHE'S WINNING LIKE ALWAYS...
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE YOU JOINED THE MAHJONG CLUB. ARE YOU USED TO IT?
YEAH ...
KYOU-CHAN...
KYOUTAROU SUGA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB
IT'S FUN! I GET TO PLAY AGAINST PEOPLE OTHER THAN MY FAMILY...
...AND IT'S FUN TO WIN TOO!
BUT...
?


NO-DOKA, HUH?
IT'S COM-PLICATED. SHE'S A FORMER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMP.

...I WONDER IF HARAMURA-SAN HATES ME.
SHE'S HARDLY SAID A WORD TO ME SINCE I OFFICIALLY JOINED.

FOR HER GRADE LEVEL, SHE WAS THE BEST PLAYER IN ALL OF JAPAN.
EVEN A BUNCH OF MAGAZINES HAD ARTICLES ABOUT HER, LABELING HER A "PRODIGY."


±0
±0
±0
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, YOU CAME ALONG WITH YOUR STRING OF PLUS-MINUS ZEROS, WHICH IS MORE DIFFICULT THAN WINNING.
TO BE HONEST, I SUSPECT SHE'S FRUS-TRATED.


ON TOP OF THAT, YOU SAID YOUR FAMILY WOULD GET MAD IF YOU BEAT THEM AT MAHJONG.
YOU DEVELOPED YOUR TECHNIQUE BECAUSE OF A DUMB REASON LIKE THAT, WHICH HURTS HER PRIDE EVEN MORE. .
IT'S NOT DUMB!!

BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH FUN IT IS TO WIN...
...YOU DON'T NEED TO GET PLUS-MINUS ZERO ANYMORE, DO YOU?
N-NO...
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...

YOU TWO OVER THERE! FREEZE!
!?
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
YUUKI KATAOKA
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB

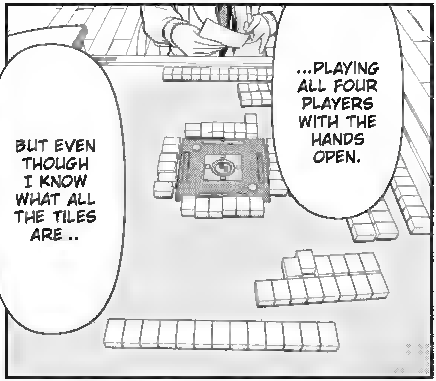
WHY WERE YOU EATING A TACO UP THERE?
OOF!

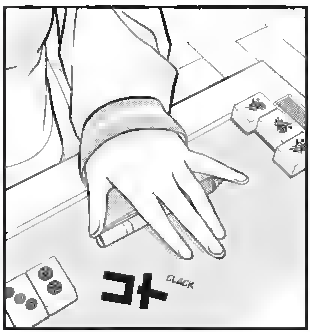
WHAT DO YOU TURN INTO!?
IF I RUN OUT OF TACOS, I CAN'T MAINTAIN MY HUMAN FORM

TACO
MEXICAN FOOD MEAT, LETTUCE, AND MORE STUFFED INTO A CREPE-LIKE SHELL
I BE-COME A TACO MY-SELF!!

click
ガチャ
Mahjong Club
ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE HERE, NODO-CHAN?
YO!
SEEMS LIKE MAKO-SAN AND THE CAPTAIN ARE RUNNING LATE.

I WAS ...
WH-WHAT WERE YOU DOING, HARAMU-RA-SAN?
OKAY, OKAY...
HELP ME MAKE THE TEA!


BUT EVEN THOUGH I KNOW WHAT ALL THE TILES ARE ..
...PLAYING ALL FOUR PLAYERS WITH THE HANDS OPEN.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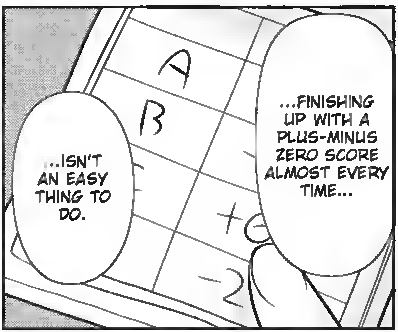
CLACK


A
B
+0
-2
...ISN'T AN EASY THING TO DO.
...FINISHING UP WITH A PLUS-MINUS ZERO SCORE ALMOST EVERY TIME...

PAY ATTENTION!
THESE TACOS ARE NUM-MY!
FIRST MATCH EAST HAND 1 DEALER: NODOKA

カラ
RATTLE
LET'S GET STARTED!
カラ
RATTLE

I HAVE TAKO-YAKI TOO!
THAT'S GOOD TOO 'COS IT'S GOT "TACO" IN THE NAME!
AN-NOY-ING...
TAP
TAP
NO-DOKA'S FIRED UP...
RIICHI!
WHAT'S SHE GOING FOR?
NODO-CHAN DECLARED RIICHI AS THE DEALER...

九萬
THERE !!
ロン
八萬
八萬
八萬
九萬
RON.
1,800!
AAAAA!
!?

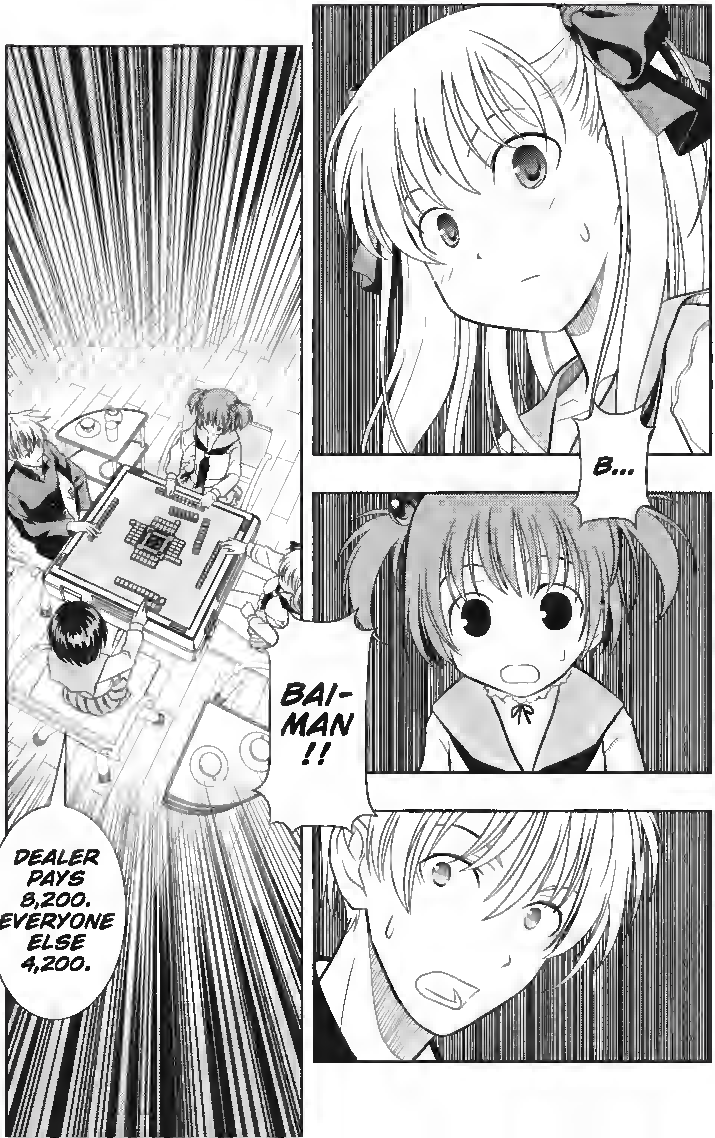
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 1
TSU-MO.
REST IN PEACE.
2,700 FROM EVERY-ONE.
HARA-MURA-SAN REALLY IS AMAZING!
...THAT KIND OF FAST ATTACK IS MY SPECIAL-TY!!
LIKE I SAID ...
AH...

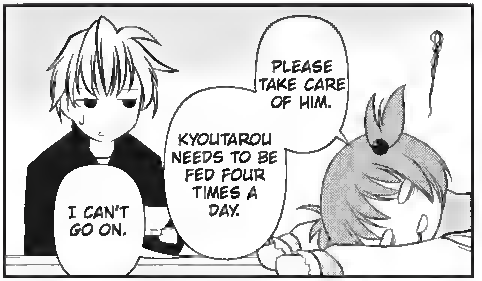
MY TURN...
ALL RIGHT.
EAST HAND 1 BONUS HAND 2
KONG.
!!
THAT'S RIGHT.

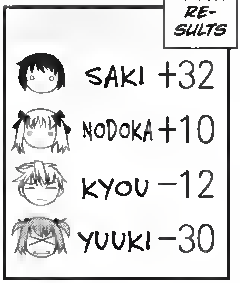
I'LL BE LIKE A FLOWER...
...THAT BLOOMS ON A MOUN-TAIN PEAK!
F

FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAINTOP: WINNING HAND FORMED BY DRAWING A REPLACEMENT TILE AFTER DECLARING A KONG WORTH 1 HAN.

CONCEALED SELF-DRAW: WINNING OFF OF A SELF-DRAWN TILE WITHOUT HAVING CALLED ANY TILES WORTH 6 HAN


B...
BAI-MAN !!
DEALER PAYS 8,200. EVERYONE ELSE 4,200.


I CAN'T GO ON.
KYOUTAROU NEEDS TO BE FED FOUR TIMES A DAY.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM.


FIRST MATCH RESULTS
SAKI +32
NODOKA +10
KYOU −12
YUUKI −30

IT'S BORING IF I DON'T WIN!

ANYWAY, NODOKA AND SAKI ARE SOME KIND OF STRONG!
WHAT AM I, YOUR PET?

YOU'LL WIN NEXT TIME.
.....
PAT

MM...
BEEP

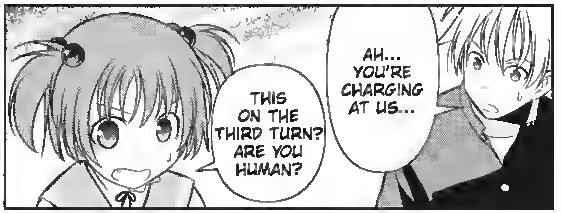
SEC-
OND
MATCH
RII-
CHI!
I GOT
MY MOJO
BACK!

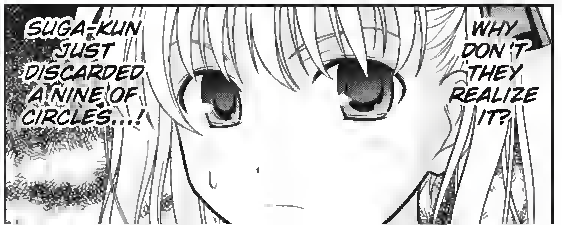
SLIDE
RON! 12,000!
DISCARDING A FIVE OF CIRCLES WHEN IT'S A TSUMO ...?
RIGHT...

FISHING FOR THIRTEEN ORPHANS!?*

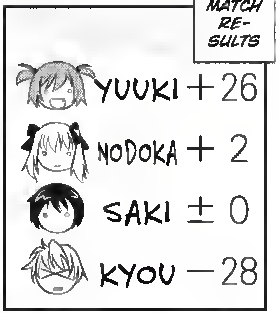
*NEEDING ONE MORE TILE TO COMPLETE THIRTEEN ORPHANS, A WINNING HAND THAT CONTAINS ONE OF EACH TERMINAL AND HONOR TILE PLUS ONE EXTRA COPY OF ANY OF THEM. A YAKUMAN WORTH 48,000 POINTS FROM THE DEALER AND 32,000 POINTS FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

MIYA-NAGA-SAN PASSED IT UP ON PUR-POSE ...!!





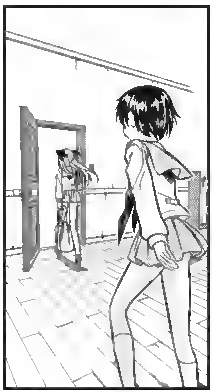
I DID IT! I WON!
SAKI GOT..


SECOND MATCH RESULTS
YUUKI +26
NODOKA + 2
SAKI ± 0
KYOU −28

I'M GOING HOME.

.....

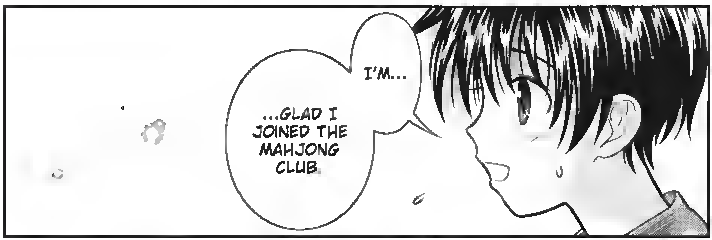
...PLUS-MINUS ZERO.



AH! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
QUIT-TING WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD?
HUH?

...NOW IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, DARLING.
DON'T EVEN JOKE.
バン
SLAM
OH, JUST YOU TWO?
CAP-TAIN!
WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO?
NODOKA-CHAN GOT MAD AND STORMED OUT.
HUH...? SHE WAS ANGRY?
HISA TAKEI
THIRD-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL
PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS
CAPTAIN OF THE MAHJONG CLUB
HMM...
I SEE.
バラッ
RUSTLE

HARA-
MURA-
SAN!


I'M...
...GLAD I
JOINED THE
MAHJONG
CLUB.

IT'S
BEEN SO
MUCH FUN
PLAYING
WITH
YOU...
TWITCH

IT ISN'T FUN FOR ME.
RIPPLE
RIPPLE
HUH...?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP PLAYING LIKE YOU JUST DID...

...I WANT YOU TO DROP OUT OF THE CLUB.

HAND 2: REASON

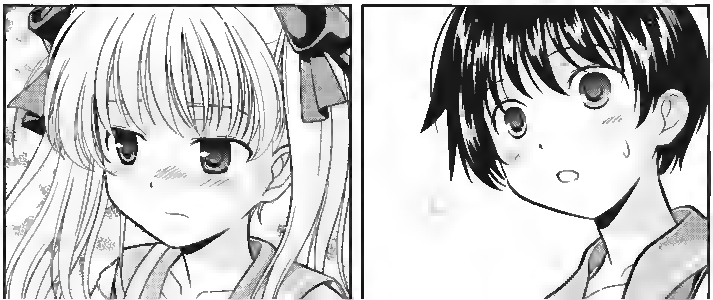
WAIT... HARA-MURA-SAN!

YOU KEPT SAYING YOU WANTED TO WIN, SO WHY DIDN'T YOU WITH THE THIRTEEN ORPHANS?

I'M NOT HAPPY YOU INSULTED A FRIEND LIKE THAT.
SHE'S NOT AS WEAK AS YOU THINK.
I'VE KNOWN YUUKI SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WELL... YUUKI-CHAN WAS...

I...
...JUST WANTED EVERYONE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME.
IF YOU HOLD BACK LIKE THAT, IT'S NO FUN FOR ME.

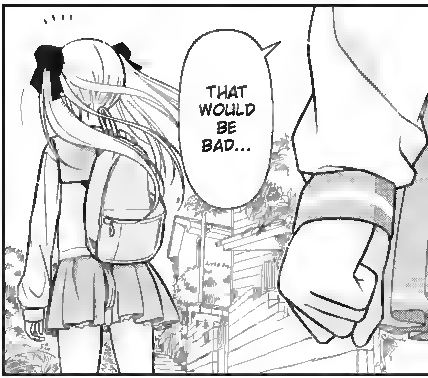
MAKE IT FUN FOR ME TOO...!!
キッ
GLARE



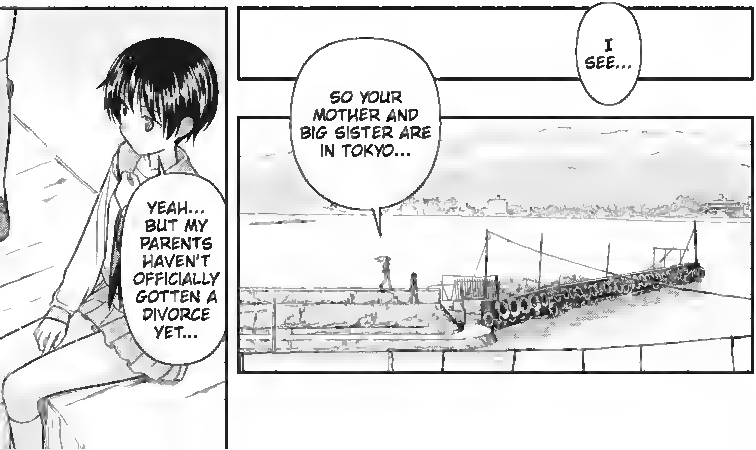
IF YOU DON'T, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO NATIONALS.
O-OKAY
FROM NOW ON, I'LL GO ALL OUT EVERY TIME!

WE WON'T MAKE IT TO NATIONALS...?

I...WANT TO GO TO NATIONALS...


THAT WOULD BE BAD...

I HAVE TO GO TO NATION-ALS!!


I SEE...
SO YOUR MOTHER AND BIG SISTER ARE IN TOKYO...
YEAH... BUT MY PARENTS HAVEN'T OFFICIALLY GOTTEN A DIVORCE YET...

I WENT...
...TO VISIT THEM ALONE ONCE.
MY SISTER WOULDN'T SAY A WORD.
I'M SURE SHE'S STILL MAD AT ME...
?
BUT I HAVE A FEELING...

SHUDDER
...THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO MY SISTER THROUGH MAHJONG!

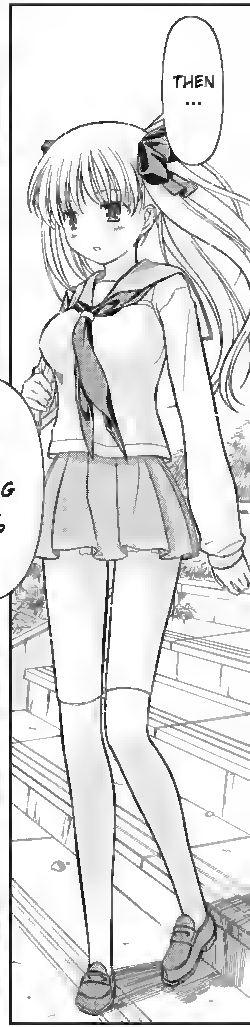
PROBABLY.. I READ THAT SHE'S FAVORED TO WIN.
YOUR SISTER IS GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL TOURNA-MENT?
.....! DON'T TELL ME...
...YOUR SISTER'S NAME IS...
SHE WON LAST YEAR'S SPRING AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNA-MENTS.
I'VE HEARD OF HER.
HER NAME IS "TERU."
TERU MIYA-NAGA!!

.....
THEN...
SO IT'S COMPLI-CATED FOR YOU TOO, HUH?
YOU TOO, HARA-MURA-SAN?
?
...I'LL WORK EVEN HARDER.
LET'S GO TOGETHER!

LET'S GO TO NATION-ALS TOGETH-ER!!

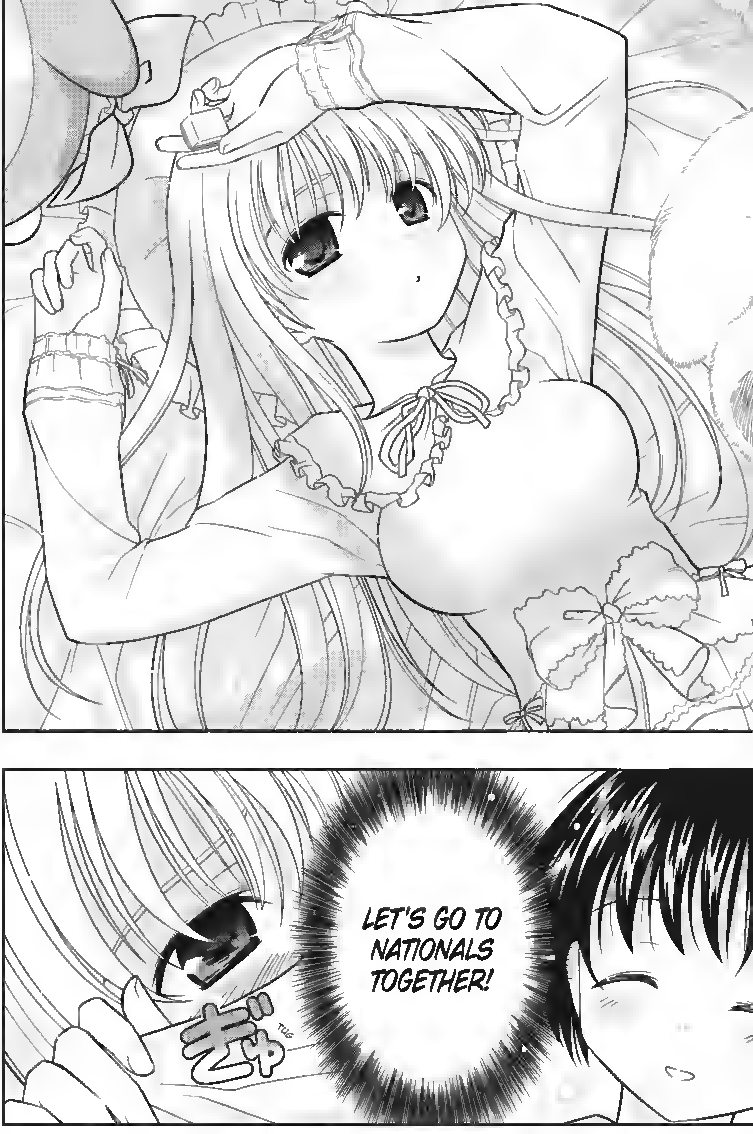
IT'S A DEAL!

...NO MORE HOLDING BACK, OKAY?


THEN ...

NATION-
ALS...
SPLISH
ピチャ

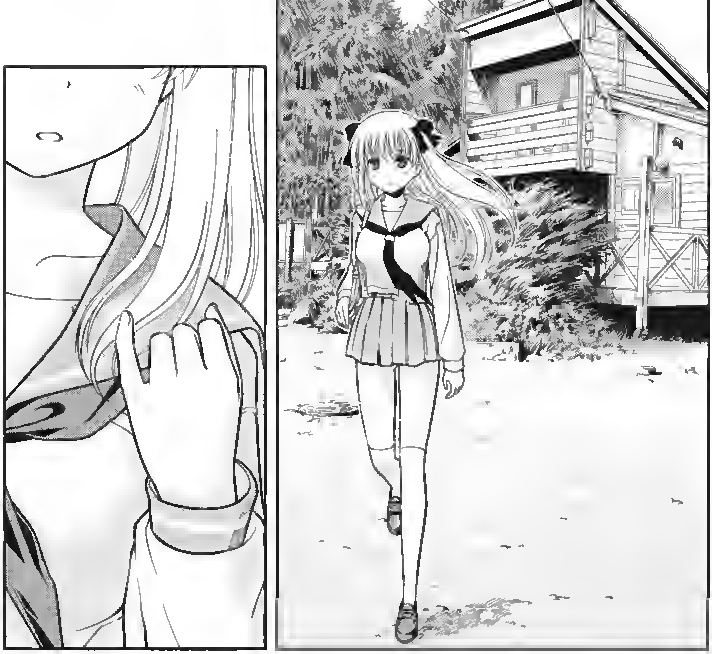
IF I GO TO NATION-ALS...
...I CAN SEE SIS!


LET'S GO TO NATIONALS TOGETHER!
ぎゅ

SLIP
NODO-KA...
YOU'VE BEEN STAYING UP LATE THESE DAYS, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY...
...BUT YOU'D BETTER CUT BACK ON PLAYING YOUR GAMES.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

I WILL...
...DAD.

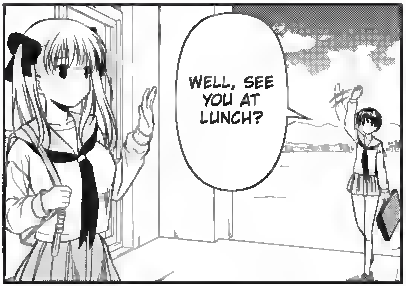


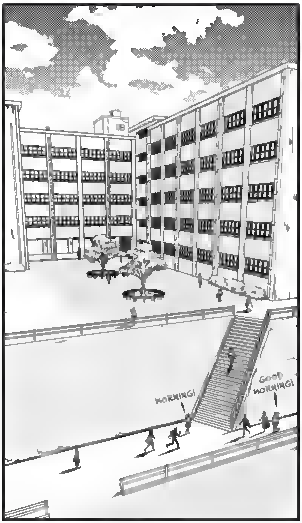
LET'S GO TO NATIONALS TOGETHER!

HARA-MURA-SAN!
THUMP
MORN-ING!
AH...
LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETH-ER.
TAP TAP
G...
GOOD MORNING...

THAT'S RIGHT.
STARTING TODAY, WE'LL BE TRAINING FOR NATIONALS.

MIYA-NAGA-SAN AND I...
...ARE GOING TO NA-TION-ALS TO-GETH-ER!!


WELL, SEE YOU AT LUNCH?

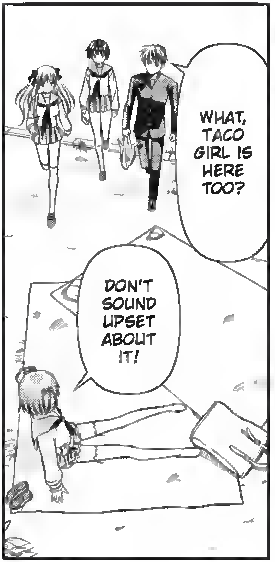

MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!

SAKI...
KYOU-CHAN.

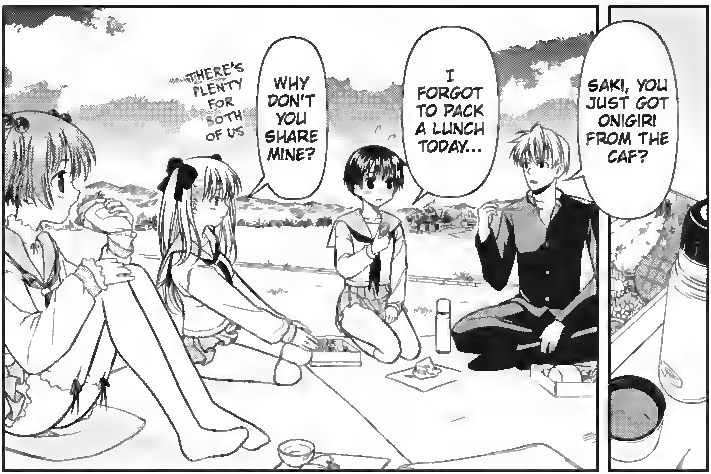
W-WOULD YOU MIND IF I JOINED YOU TWO FOR LUNCH?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY POLITE?

ARE YOU AND NODOKA FRIENDS NOW...?
YEAH.

LUNCH BREAK
キーン
コーン


WHAT, TACO GIRL IS HERE TOO?
DON'T SOUND UPSET ABOUT IT!

YOU'RE LATE!
I'M STARVING HERE!


SAKI, YOU JUST GOT ONIGIRI FROM THE CAF?
I FORGOT TO PACK A LUNCH TODAY...
WHY DON'T YOU SHARE MINE?
THERE'S PLENTY FOR BOTH OF US

YOU MUST BE GOOD AT COOKING, HARA-MURA-SAN!
IT'S REALLY GOOD!
THAT'S MY WIFE!
I-I DON'T WANT TO LOSE AT MAHJONG BECAUSE OF AN EMPTY STOMACH, SO...
...WIFE?
YOUR...

WEL-
COME
HOME!
ぼわ～
WIFE,
HUH...?
HMPH...

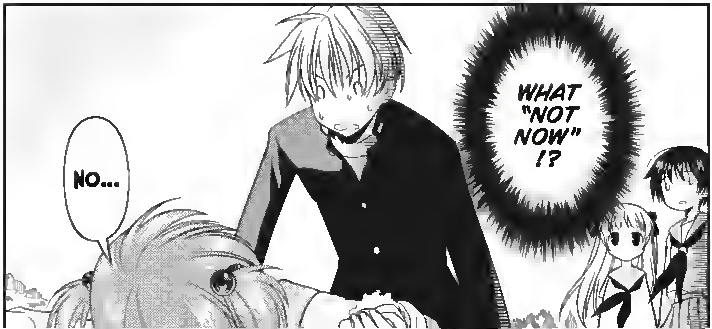
TCH!
HEY,
ISN'T THAT
MY MEAT
BUN!?

TOO BAD
FOR YOU,
NODO-CHAN
PREFERS
MAHJONG
OVER
MEN!
SWISH

AH!
GIVE
IT
BACK!

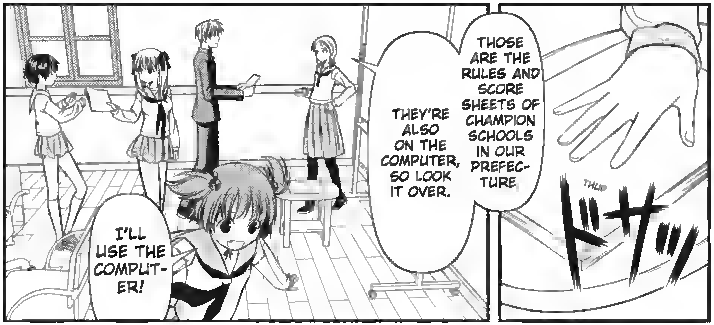
WHUMP

N...
NOT NOW...


WHAT "NOT NOW" !?
NO...

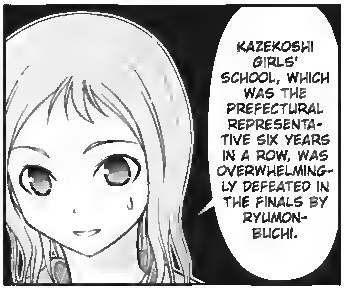
AFTER SCHOOL
OKAY, YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.
GATHER ROUND, EVEN IF YOU'RE EATING TACOS OR TAKING A NAP!
MM—
YAWN...
MUNCH
IT'S MY PILLOW.
WHAT'S WITH THE PENGUIN?

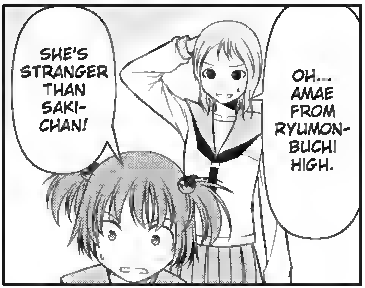
GO FOR THE GOAL!
THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG TOURNAMENT
AND SO...
ET'S GET THROUGH TH
EFECTURAL QUALIFIER!!
.. THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER IS AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT MONTH.

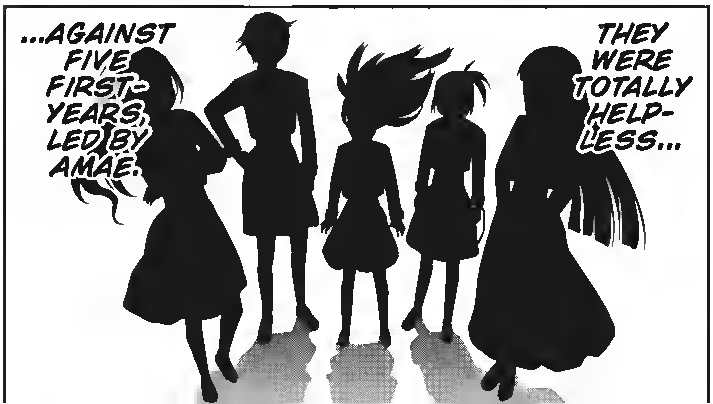

I'LL USE THE COMPUTER!
THEY'RE ALSO ON THE COMPUTER, SO LOOK IT OVER.
THOSE ARE THE RULES AND SCORE SHEETS OF CHAMPION SCHOOLS IN OUR PREFECTURE
THUD
ドサッ

CLICK
カチカチ
CLICK
MM...
WE ALTERNATE WITH FIVE PEOPLE? WHAT IS THIS?
SAVE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR LATER.
WE GET 100,000 POINTS COMBINED?

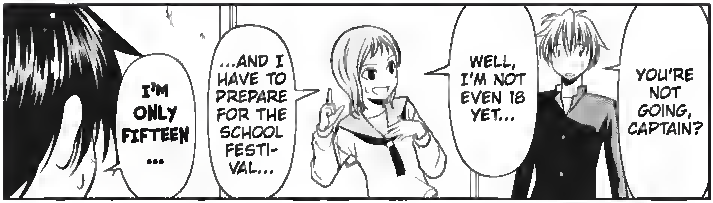
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ゴゴ
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS PERSON...
WAIT...

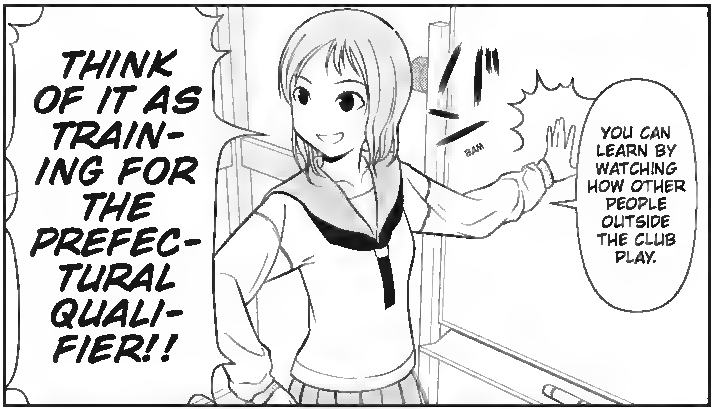

KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL, WHICH WAS THE PREFECTURAL REPRESENTATIVE SIX YEARS IN A ROW, WAS OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED IN THE FINALS BY RYUMONBUCHI.

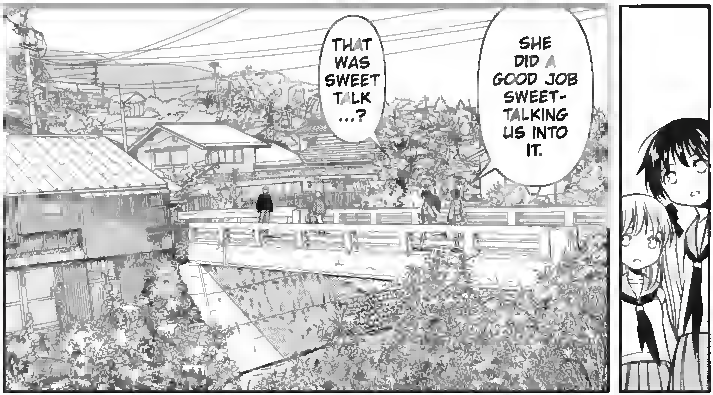

SHE'S STRANGER THAN SAKI-CHAN!
OH... AMAE FROM RYUMONBUCHI HIGH.


...AGAINST FIVE FIRST-YEARS, LED BY AMAE.
THEY WERE TOTALLY HELPLESS...

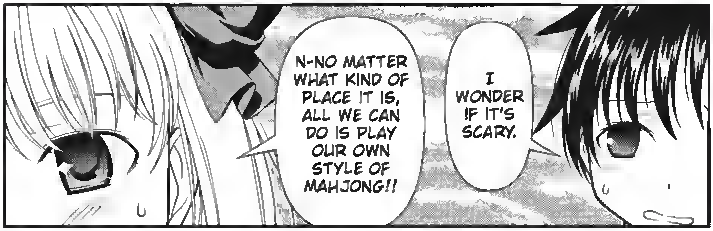
.....
HISTORY WILL REPEAT!!
WE HAVE SAKI TOO.
BUT THIS YEAR WE'VE GOT NODO-CHAN, SO THE KIYOSUMI FRESHMEN WILL CRUSH 'EM!!
MAKO'S FAMILY RUNS A MAHJONG PARLOR.
A COUPLE OF PART-TIMERS ARE OUT SICK TODAY, SO THEY'RE SHORT-HANDED.
I ALMOST FORGOT.
OH.
SOMEYA-SENPAI ISN'T COMING TODAY?
...I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP THEM OUT, NODOKA AND MIYA-NAGA-SAN.
!?
AND SO...
チラッ

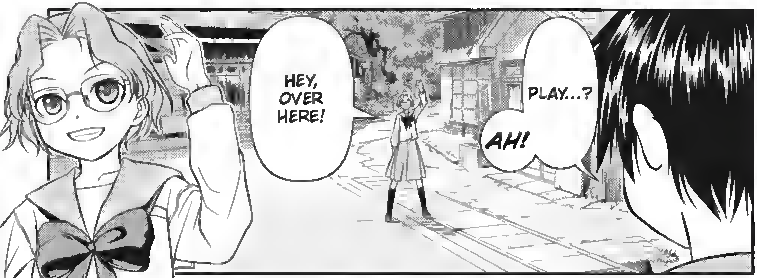

YOU'RE NOT GOING, CAPTAIN?
WELL, I'M NOT EVEN 18 YET...
...AND I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
I'M ONLY FIFTEEN...


YOU CAN LEARN BY WATCHING HOW OTHER PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE CLUB PLAY.
BAM
THINK OF IT AS TRAINING FOR THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER!!


SHE DID A GOOD JOB SWEET-TALKING US INTO IT.
THAT WAS SWEET TALK...?

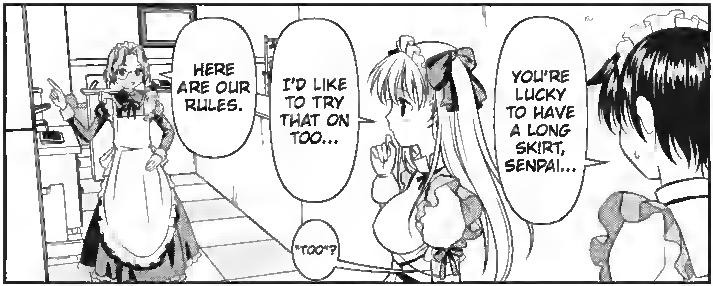
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A MAHJONG PARLOR BEFORE...
ME NEITHER ...

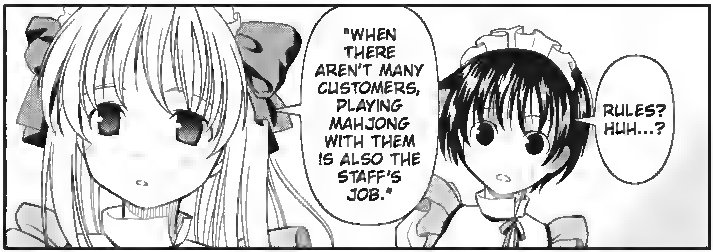

I WONDER IF IT'S SCARY.
N-NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PLACE IT IS, ALL WE CAN DO IS PLAY OUR OWN STYLE OF MAHJONG!!

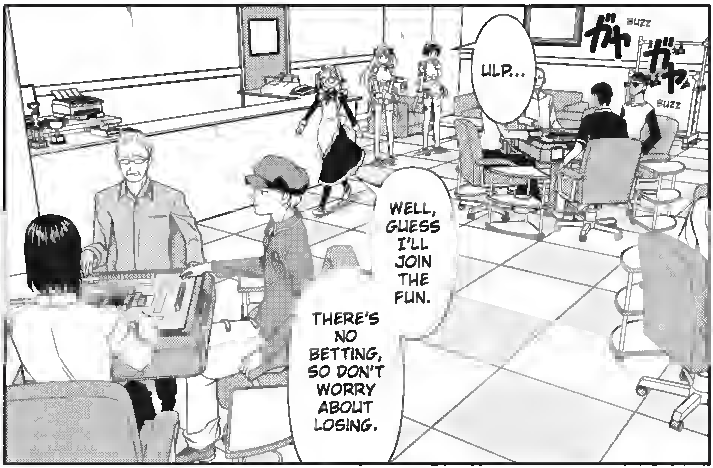

PLAY...?
AH!
HEY, OVER HERE!

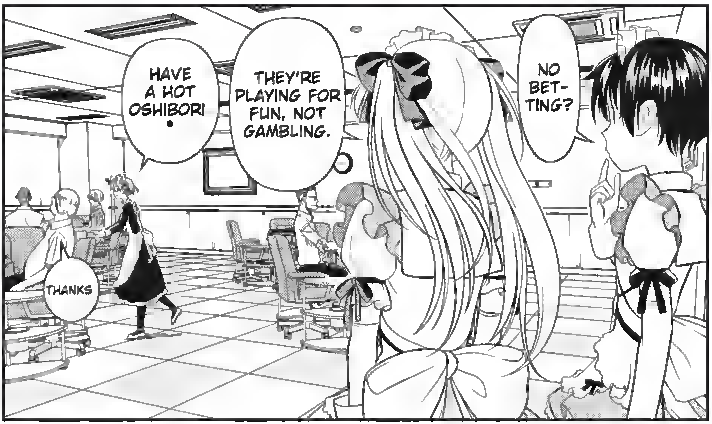
MAHJONG
rooftop
MAKO SOMEYA
SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT KIYOSUMI HIGH SCHOOL MAHJONG CLUB

PLAYING MAHJONG ONLINE IS POPULAR THESE DAYS, SO WE NEED OUTFITS LIKE THESE TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS.
IT'S A MAID MAHJONG PARLOR!
I-IT'S EMBAR-RASSING...
NO PROB-LEM WITH IT
WHAAA...!?


HERE ARE OUR RULES.
I'D LIKE TO TRY THAT ON TOO...
"TOO"?
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A LONG SKIRT, SENPAI...

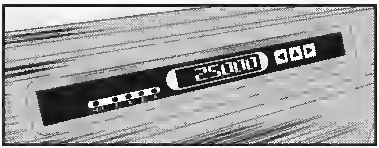

"WHEN THERE AREN'T MANY CUSTOMERS, PLAYING MAHJONG WITH THEM IS ALSO THE STAFF'S JOB."
RULES? HUH...?

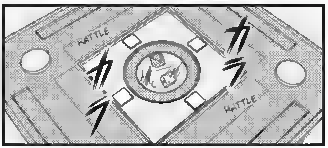

BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
ULP...
WELL, GUESS I'LL JOIN THE FUN.
THERE'S NO BETTING, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT LOSING.



OSHIBORI: MOISTENED HAND TOWEL

EAST-SOUTH GAME HALF-GAME CONSISTING OF AN EAST AND SOUTH ROUND





THAT'S 8,000 HERE.
OH, REALLY ?
THAT'LL BE 7,700.
RON.
47500

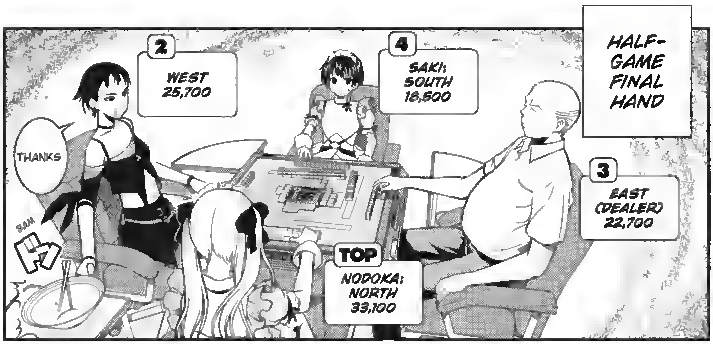
...YOU GIRLS SURE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
WELL...
SEE YOU.
YEAH.
EMBARRASSED

WEL-
COME.
OH...
JINGLE
TODAY'S
PART-
TIMERS ARE
CUTE.

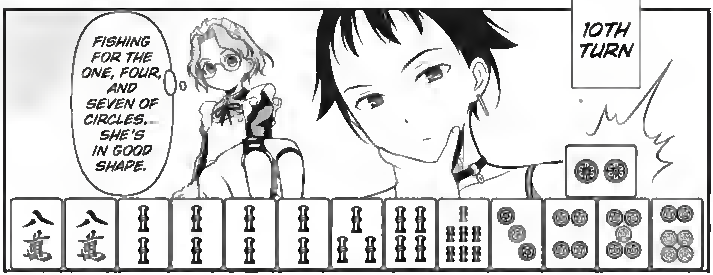
HAND 4: TOYED WITH

WHAT IS THIS SENSATION ...?
STRANGE...
TREMBLE
ブルッ
IT FEELS JUST LIKE WHEN I PLAYED AGAINST SIS...
I'LL HAVE THE USUAL, EXTRA-LARGE.
KATSU-DON, RIGHT?

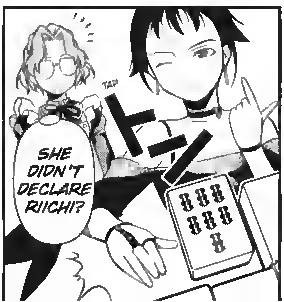
HELLO THERE.
MIYA-NAGA-SAN IS TREM-BLING?
GOBBLE
GOBBLE


HALF-GAME FINAL HAND
2
WEST 25,700
4
SAKI; SOUTH 18,500
3
EAST (DEALER) 22,700
TOP
NODOKA; NORTH 33,100
THANKS
SUN

WAS THAT NASTY FEELING I HAD BEFORE JUST MY IMAGINATION...?
KATSUDON-SAN HAS HARDLY WON ANY HANDS...


10TH TURN
FISHING FOR THE ONE, FOUR, AND SEVEN OF CIRCLES... SHE'S IN GOOD SHAPE.

I'M TRYING TO WIN HERE, BUT I'M NOT GETTING ANYTHING.

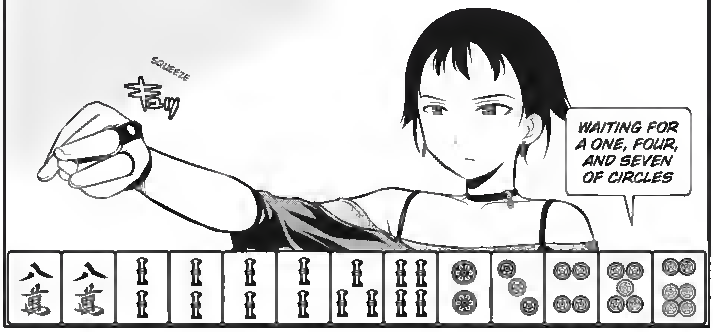

TAP
トン
SHE DIDN'T DECLARE RIICHI?

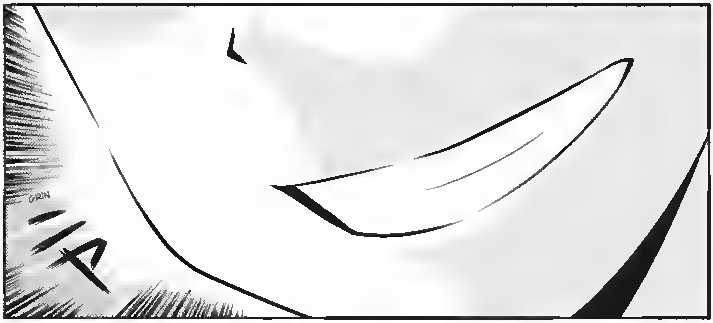
THE DEALER DECLARES RIICHI AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?
RIICHI.
SQUEEZE
CHAK
TAP
I GET THE FEELING SHE'S GOING TO DISCARD A CHARACTER TILE...SO IT'S HARD FOR ME TO DISCARD THE EIGHT OF CHARACTERS...
HE DISCARDED A FIVE OF CIRCLES AND DECLARED RIICHI, WHILE IN THE SAME TURN, MIYANAGA-SAN IMMEDIATELY DISCARDED A SIX OF CIRCLES...

EIGHT OF BAMBOOS... I'LL DISCARD THE TWO OF CIRCLES FROM MY PAIR AND LET IT GO AROUND ONCE...!
THE DEALER DISCARDED THE ONE AND THE SIX OF BAMBOOS, SO A LITTLE MORE AND THE TWO AND THE FIVE OF BAMBOOS SHOULD...
TAP
HEH

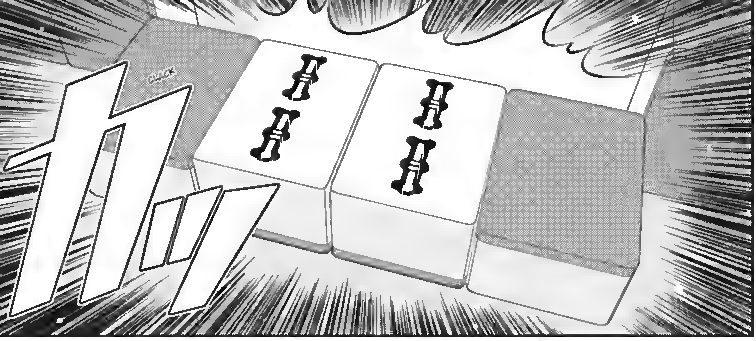
.....
I'LL CALL KONG ON THE NEXT SOUTH I DRAW...
WAITING FOR THE EIGHT OF CHARACTERS
...AND WIN THE HAND WITH THE EIGHT OF CHARACTERS I'LL DRAW FROM THE DEAD WALL!* STAGING A COMEBACK AGAINST HARAMURA-SAN...!!

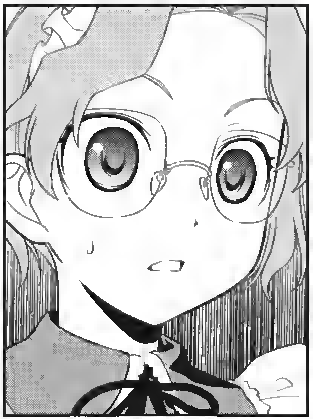
DEAD WALL TILE A TILE THAT CAN ONLY BE DRAWN FROM THE DEAD WALL AFTER DECLARING A KONG. IF THE HAND IS WON, THE SCORING COMBINATION IS CALLED FLOWER ON THE MOUNTAINTOP AND IS WORTH 1 HAN


SQUEEZE
WAITING FOR A ONE, FOUR, AND SEVEN OF CIRCLES


GRIN

KONG!
!?


カッ

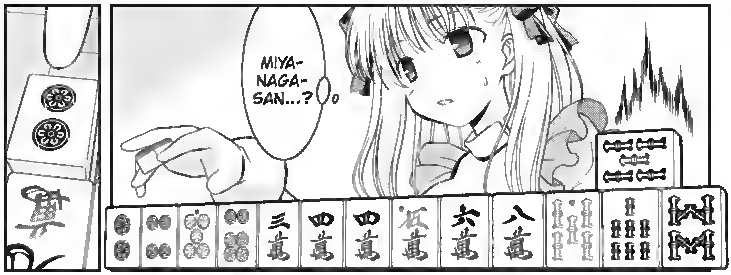


KONG AFTER THE DEALER DECLARED RIICHI...!?

TH...

THAT REPLACE-MENT TILE IS MINE...
DON'T TAKE IT...!
東
CLICK
パシッ

IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN I PLAYED WITH SIS!!
THIS FEEL-ING...


MIYA-NAGA-SAN...?

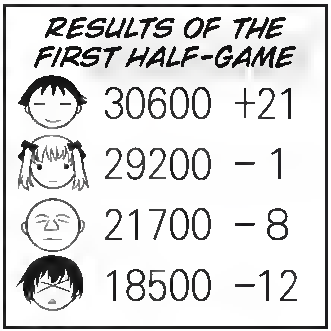
RON!

ALL SIMPLES, ONE DORA. 60 MINI-POINTS... 3,900.
RATTLE
WHA...?

AND THAT'S THE GAME.
SHE GAVE UP ON FISHING FOR THE ONE, FOUR, AND SEVEN OF CIRCLES AND WENT RIGHT FOR THE DISCARDED TWO OF CIRCLES FROM MY PAIR!?

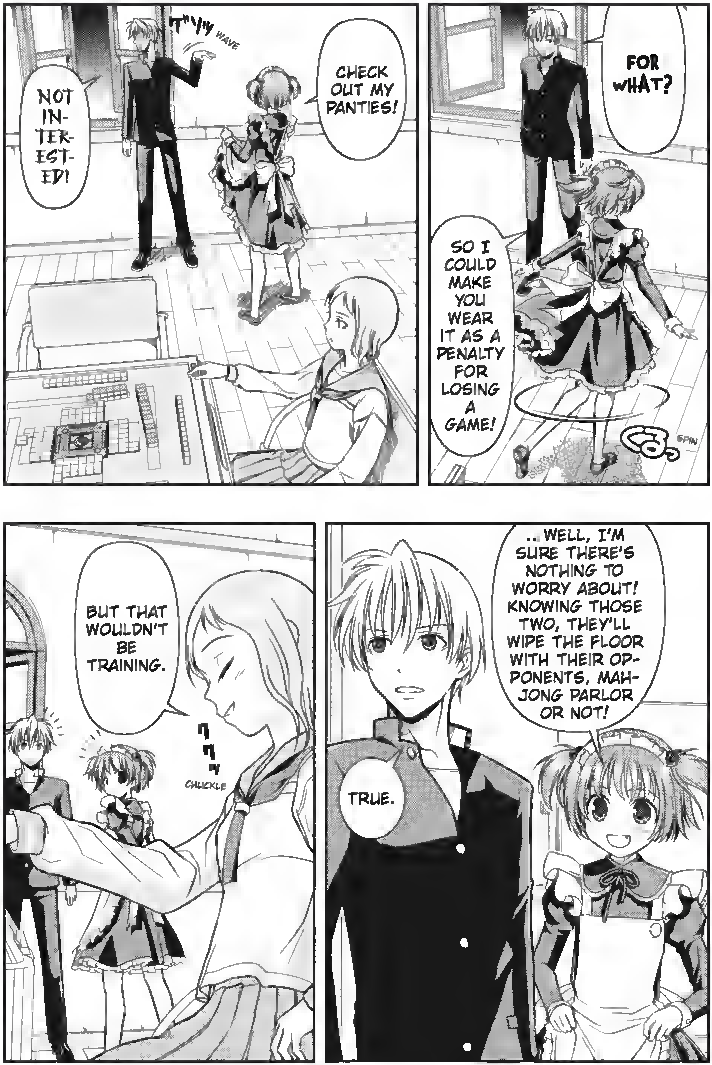
NODOKA CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND TACTICS LIKE THAT.
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE CHANGED TO A BAD WAIT...
SHE USED AN OKURIKAN* TO INCREASE THE DORA WHEN THE DEALER DECLARED RIICHI.

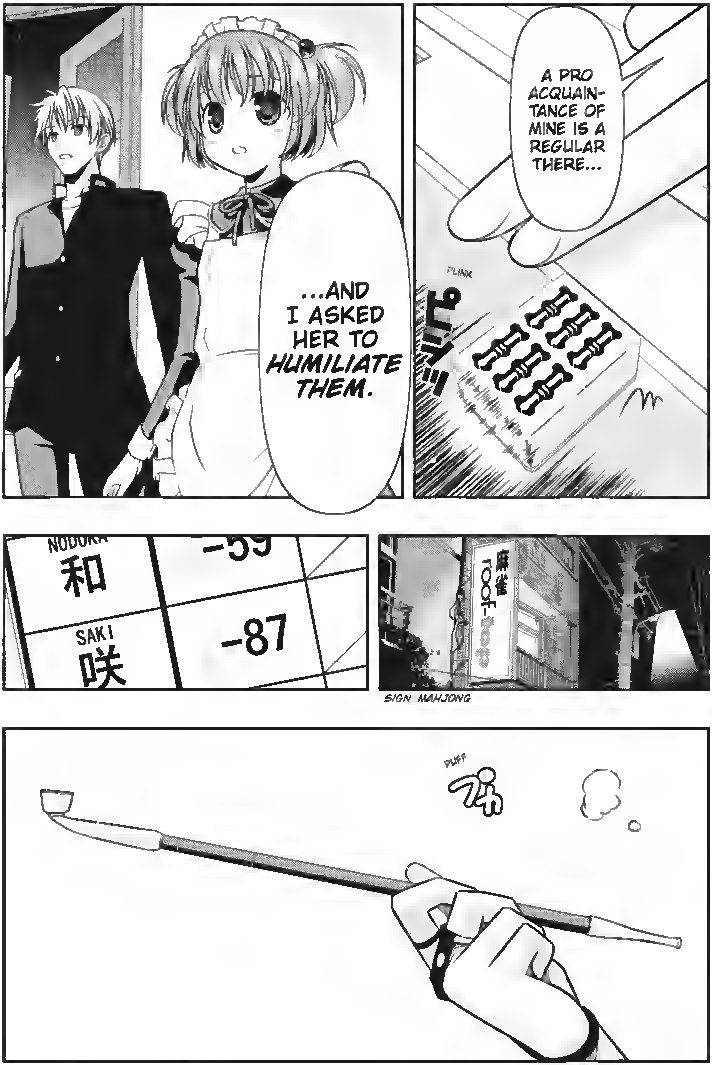
*OKURIKAN: FOUR IDENTICAL TILES LEFT UNDECLARED IN ORDER TO USE THEM FOR OTHER COMBOS INSTEAD OF FORMING A KONG.



SIGH...
I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN NODOKA IN COSTUME...
I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE...

HAND 5: CRUSHING DEFEAT

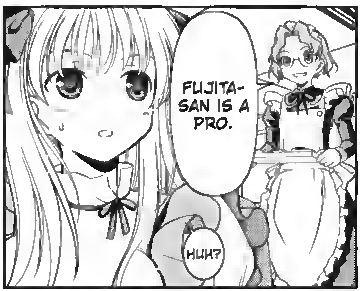

NOT INTERESTED!
WAVE
CHECK OUT MY PANTIES!
FOR WHAT?
SO I COULD MAKE YOU WEAR IT AS A PENALTY FOR LOSING A GAME!
SPIN
BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE TRAINING.
CHUCKLE
TRUE.
.. WELL, I'M SURE THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT! KNOWING THOSE TWO, THEY'LL WIPE THE FLOOR WITH THEIR OPPONENTS, MAHJONG PARLOR OR NOT!


A PRO ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE IS A REGULAR THERE...
PLINK
...AND I ASKED HER TO HUMILIATE THEM.
NODOKA
和
-59
SAKI
咲
-87
麻雀
SIGN: MAHJONG
PUFF

IN THE END, I WON FIVE TIMES IN A ROW.
WH...

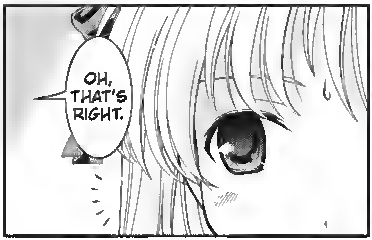
WHO IS SHE!?

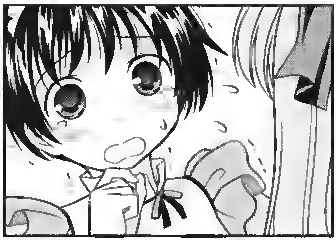
e Closer
EVER SINCE SHE TURNED PRO, SHE'S BEEN CALLED "THE CLOSER QUEEN."

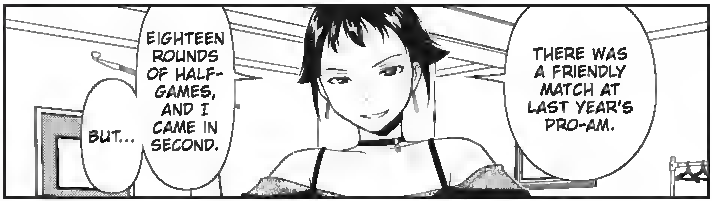

FUJITA-SAN IS A PRO.
HUH?

A PRO MAH-JONG PLAYER !?
PHEW... GOOD...
RELIEF
SO SHE'S A PRO... THEN IT COULDN'T BE HELPED...
TWITCH
CLENCH
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LIKE ME TO LOSE TO A PRO... RIGHT?

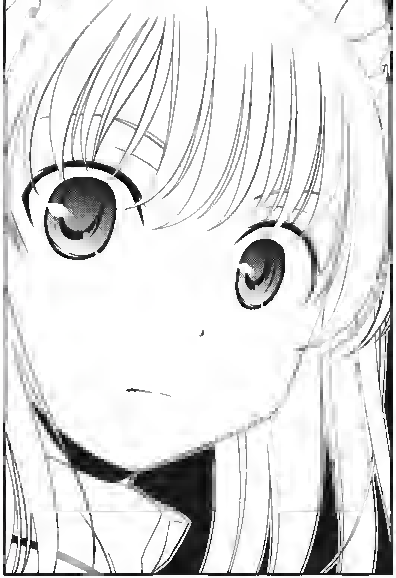
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!!
TWITCH

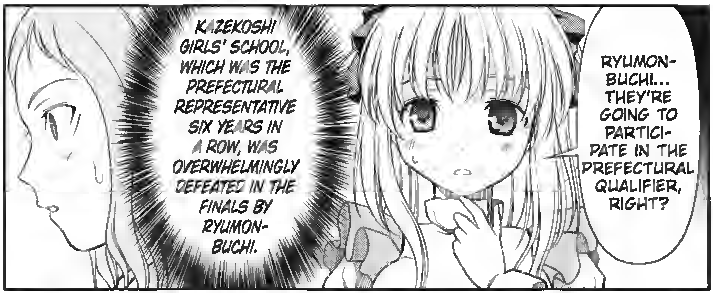

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

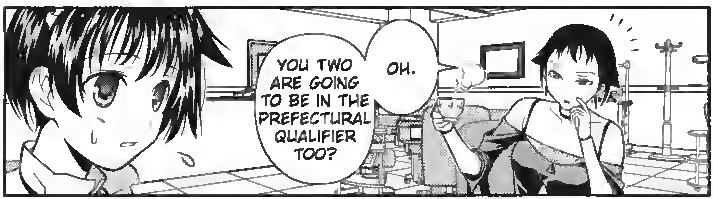


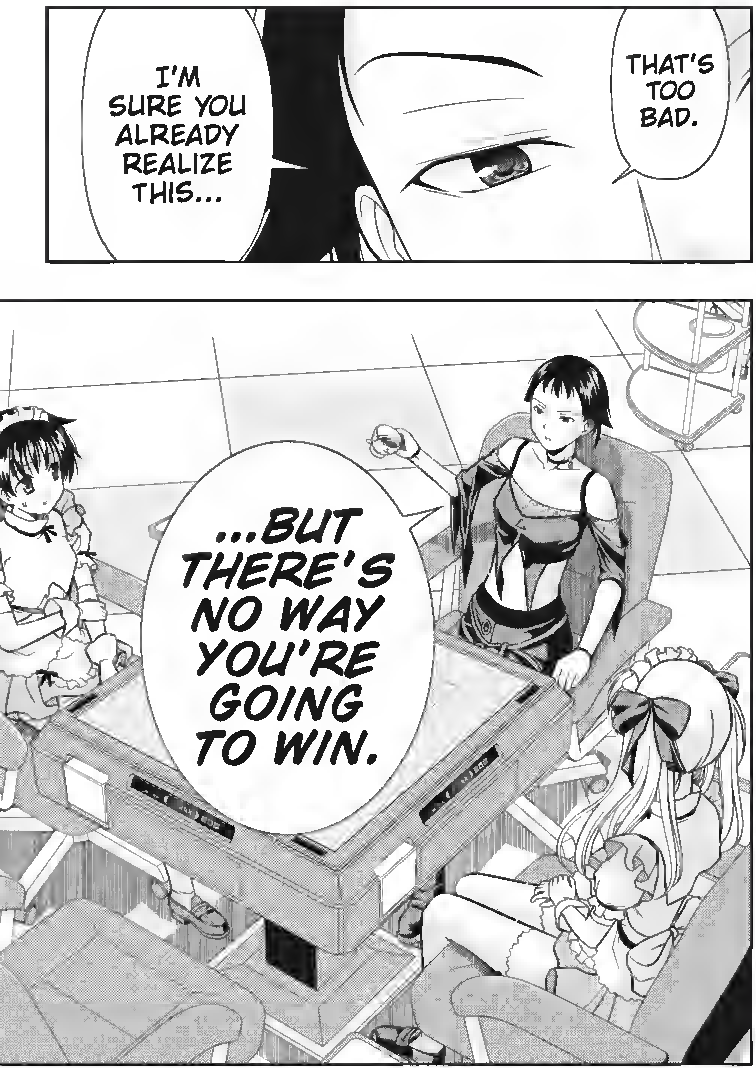

THERE WAS A FRIENDLY MATCH AT LAST YEAR'S PRO-AM.
EIGHTEEN ROUNDS OF HALF-GAMES, AND I CAME IN SECOND.
BUT...

...THE WIN-NER...
...WAS A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
KOROMO AMAE FROM RYUMON-BUCHI HIGH SCHOOL !!




KAZEKOSHI GIRLS' SCHOOL, WHICH WAS THE PREFECTURAL REPRESENTATIVE SIX YEARS IN A ROW, WAS OVERWHELMINGLY DEFEATED IN THE FINALS BY RYUMON-BUCHI.
RYUMON-BUCHI... THEY'RE GOING TO PARTICI-PATE IN THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER, RIGHT?

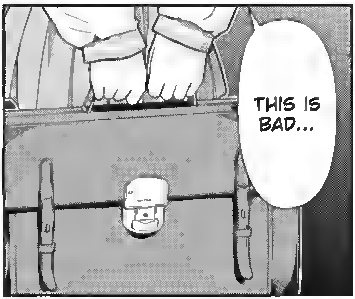

YOU TWO ARE GOING TO BE IN THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER TOO?
OH.


I'M SURE YOU ALREADY REALIZE THIS...
THAT'S TOO BAD.
...BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GOING TO WIN.

8:00 P.M.

SHE SAID EVEN BETTER PLAYERS THAN HER ARE GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUALIFIER ...

RYUMON-BUCHI HIGH SCHOOL..

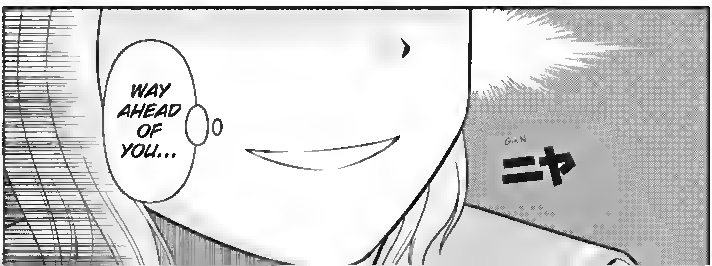

THIS IS BAD...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
SNIFF
AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO NATIONALS ...!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE HAVE TO GO TO NATIONALS, REMEMBER!?
SO PLEASE DON'T WHINE AFTER YOU LOSE ONCE!
WE ARE DEFINITELY GOING...
...TO NATION-ALS!

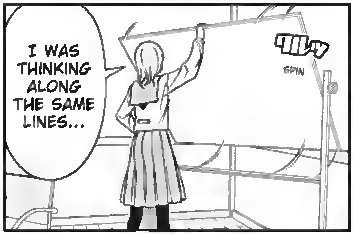
WE STILL HAVE TEN DAYS BEFORE THE PREFECTURAL QUALIFIER.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS!
HARAMURA-SAN...

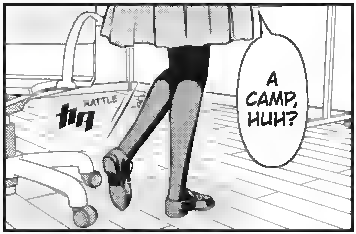
8:20 P.M.
Mahjong Club
OH!
YOU DIDN'T GO STRAIGHT HOME FROM THE MAHJONG PARLOR?
THE OTHER TWO LEFT ALREADY.

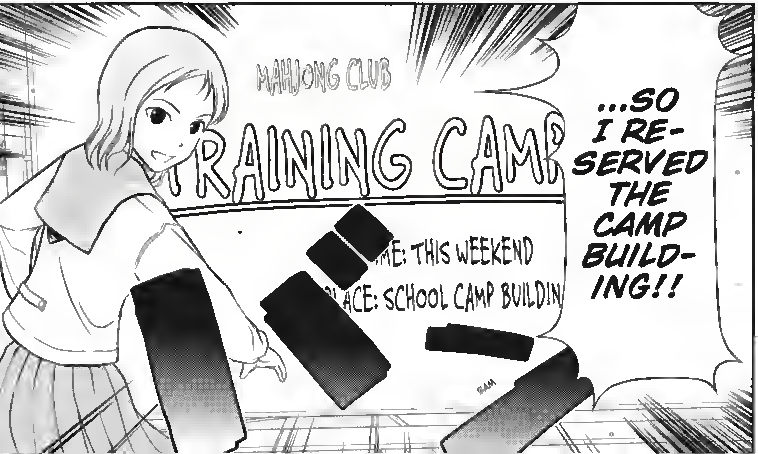
CAP-TAIN...
...LET'S DO A TRAINING CAMP!


WAY AHEAD OF YOU...
ニヤ

LET'S DO A TRAIN-ING CAMP!


I WAS THINKING ALONG THE SAME LINES...
SPIN


A CAMP, HUH?
RATTLE


MAHJONG CLUB
TRAINING CAMP
...SO I RE-SERVED THE CAMP BUILD-ING!!
ME: THIS WEEKEND
ACE: SCHOOL CAMP BUILDIN
GAH

HAND 6: DECISION

I'M HOME.
CLAK
CLICK
HE'S LATE TODAY TOO...
MAH-JONG?
.....
SHE'LL BE IN THIS SCHOOL TOO...
I MADE A FRIEND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
THAT'S WHY YOU REFUSE TO GO TO THE PREP SCHOOL IN TOKYO?

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO STAY HERE...
WHAT GOOD IS A COUNTRY BUMPKIN FRIEND?
AND MAHJONG IS AN UNPRODUCTIVE GAME THAT MOSTLY RELIES ON CHANCE
THEN...
IT'S RIDICULOUS TO PRACTICE SO YOU CAN GO TO A TOURNAMENT.
CLENCH
...IF I WIN THE HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT ...
...CAN I STAY HERE?
.....

DO IT, AND THEN WE'LL SEE.
I WILL WIN IT.
YOU WAIT AND SEE!!

Mahjong Club
SPIN
I WANT TO GET A HANDLE ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS BY THE TIME WE START CAMP
MUNCH
MUNCH
WITH ONLINE MAHJONG, YOU'VE BEEN A TOP-RATED PLAYER FOR A LONG TIME THANKS TO YOUR LOGICAL PLAYING STYLE.
AVERAGE RANK
NODOKA
START-ING WITH NODOKA

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED AT MY MAHJONG PARLOR YESTERDAY.
BUT IN REAL LIFE, YOU GET INFLUENCED BY THE COURSE OF THE GAME ..
...AND MAKE GLARING MISTAKES.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS A PRO, IF YOU'D PLAYED WITH YOUR TRUE ABILITY, YOU WOULD'VE PUT UP A MUCH BETTER FIGHT.
THIS IS...
...JUST A GUESS...
...BUT MAYBE YOU'RE THROWN OFF BY SENSORY OVERLOAD IN A REAL GAME BUT NOT ONLINE.
SENSORY OVERLOAD?
WHY DON'T YOU WORK ON DEVELOPING A TOLERANCE FOR THINGS THAT ONLY HAPPEN IN A REAL GAME?
FOR EXAMPLE, THE ACTION OF DISCARDING A TSUMO.
FOR EXAMPLE, SAKI'S PRESENCE.
WHA ...!?
?

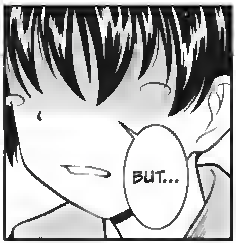
ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME PEOPLE ARE REALLY GOOD AT READING BETWEEN THE LINES WITH REAL-TIME INFORMATION.
SO TRY TRAINING YOURSELF TO DO THOSE PHYSICAL ACTIONS WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT THEM.
EVEN THAT MOVEMENT, WHICH YOU DON'T DO ONLINE, MAY BE DULLING YOUR THOUGHT PROCESS.
WILL THAT ACTUALLY IMPROVE HER GAME?
.....
ON-LINE?
...WHERE YOU DON'T USE REAL TILES?
SO, JUST THE OPPOSITE, WHY DON'T YOU TRY PLAYING AGAINST VARIOUS PEOPLE ONLINE...
I THINK YOU CAN SEE THINGS THAT PEOPLE NORMALLY CAN'T.
MIYA-NAGA-SAN MAY BE ONE OF THEM.
SERI-OUS-LY?
WHAT!?
...DON'T HAVE A COMPUT-ER OR ANY-THING.
I... I...

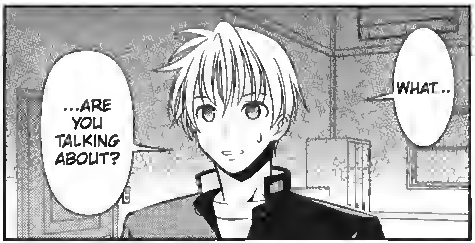
SURE.
YOU CAN USE THE CLUB'S COMPUTER. SUGA-KUN, SHOW HER HOW TO DO IT.
TO GET A PROMISING FIRST-YEAR IN THE CLUB.
HOW'S THAT?
WE'RE LUCKY, HUH?
...BUT NOW WE HAVE FOUR NEW MEMBERS.
I DIDN'T HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR THIS YEAR EITHER...
ESPECIALLY SINCE KIDS IN THIS AREA WHO PLAY MAHJONG USUALLY GO TO KAZEKOSHI OR RYUMONBUCHI.
TOPIC
SPRING FESTIVAL
SCHEDULE
CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

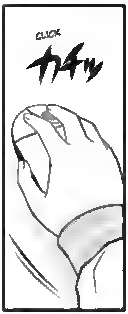
WHISTLE
THIS IS MY LAST YEAR. IF WE LOSE, IT'S OVER.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT'D BE NICE IF WE MADE PREFECTURAL BEST EIGHT.
AT LEAST, SHOW ME THE DREAM OF WINNING NATIONALS.

GROAN...
SAKI...?
CLICK
TWITCH
RON!
SAKI MIYANAGA
-60
-48
-43
IT'S NOT GOING WELL...
DRIP
WHAT'S WRONG?
..BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY HERE!
I CAN USUALLY SEE A LOT OF THE TILES...
IS THIS..

IS THIS REALLY MAHJONG ...?

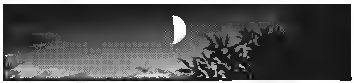

BUT...

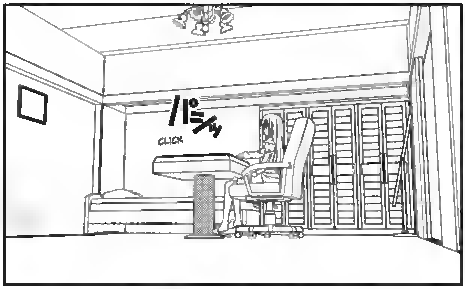

...ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT..

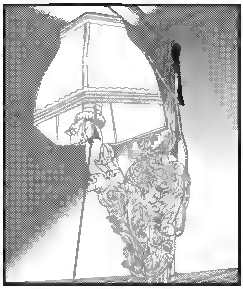

CLICK
カチッ

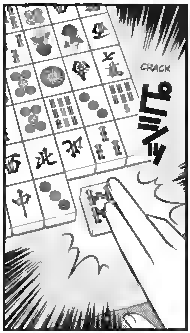
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO TO NATIONALS.
...THE WAY I AM NOW...

...EVERY-THING THAT I CAN!!
I'LL DO...
グス
SNIFF

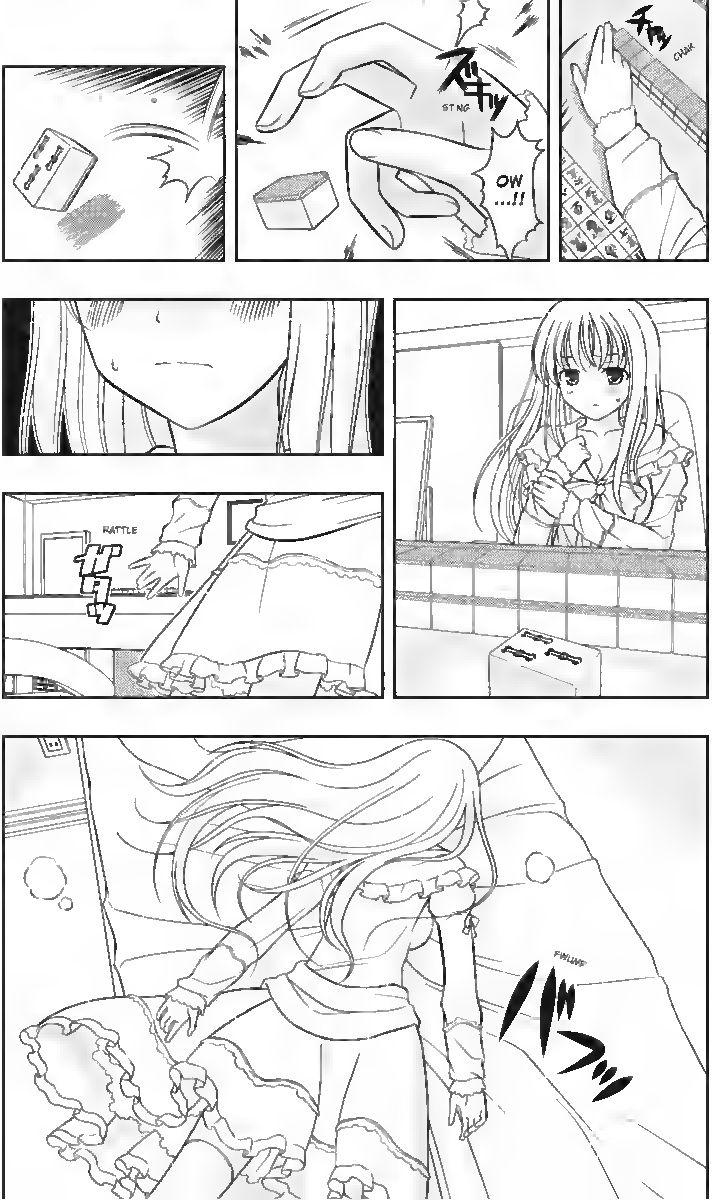



パシッ
CLICK




CRACK

キュッ
GRAB

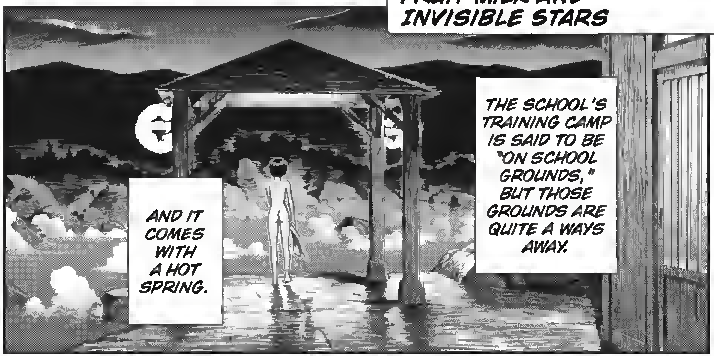

STING
OW ...!!
CHAK
RATTLE
FWUWF

IF I LOSE...
IF I LOSE, I CAN'T STAY HERE.
CRACK
CHAK

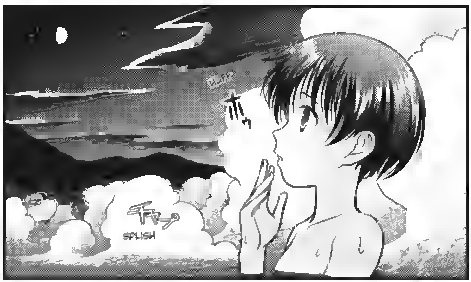
AND THEN...
...THE TRAINING CAMP BEGAN.

BONUS MANGA

FRUIT MILK AND INVISIBLE STARS

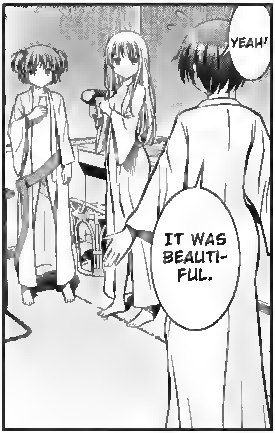

THE SCHOOL'S TRAINING CAMP IS SAID TO BE "ON SCHOOL GROUNDS," BUT THOSE GROUNDS ARE QUITE A WAYS AWAY.
AND IT COMES WITH A HOT SPRING.

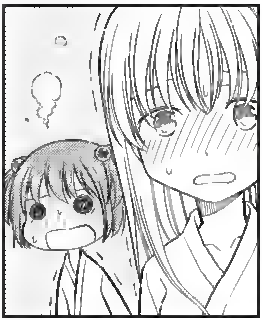
THERE'S A SLIGHTLY SULFURIC SMELL.



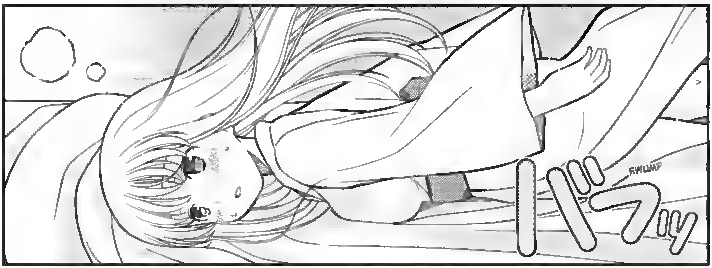
I GLIMPSE SOMETHING FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN IT'S GONE.

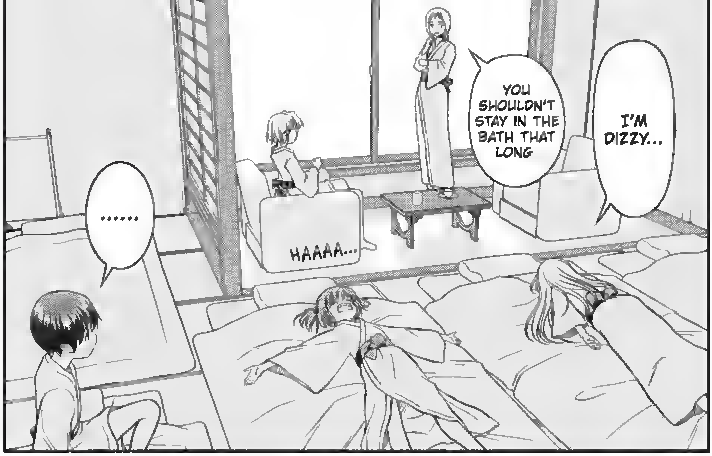
THE WIND BLOWS THE STEAM ACROSS THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.

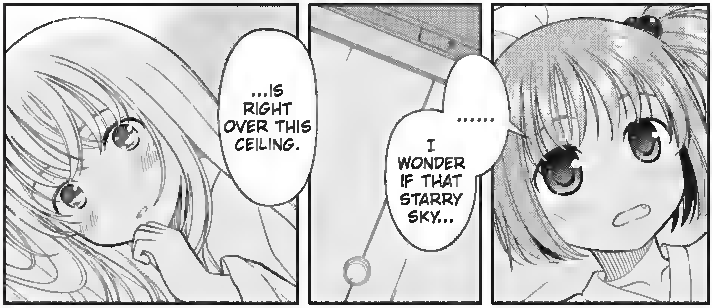


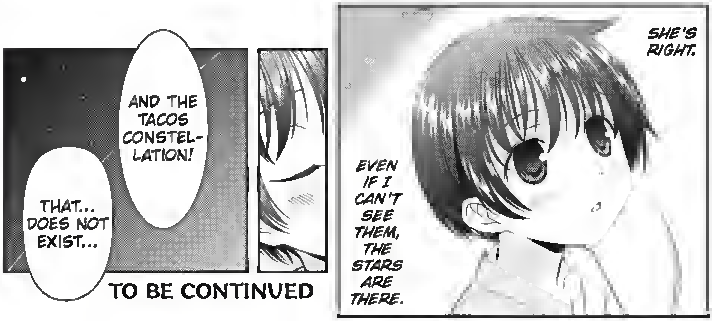


FIFTY MINUTES LATER




I'M DIZZY...
YOU SHOULDN'T STAY IN THE BATH THAT LONG
HAAAA...
.....


I WONDER IF THAT STARRY SKY...
.....
...IS RIGHT OVER THIS CEILING.


SHE'S RIGHT.
EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE THEM, THE STARS ARE THERE.
AND THE TACOS CONSTEL-LATION!
THAT... DOES NOT EXIST...
TO BE CONTINUED

-Yuki- vol 1
HELLO! I'M YUKI!!
I'M KYOU-TAR OU
YUKI'S TACO UNIVERSE PROJECT!
I'M STARTING A NEW SEGMENT RIGHT HERE!
I'LL START BY FEEDING TACOS TO YOUR PET CAPYBARA!
SNIFF SNIFF
WAIT.
CAPYBARA THE LARGEST RODENT IN THE WORLD HERBIVOROUS
I'LL MAKE TACOS THE STAPLE FOOD OF EVERY LIVING CREATURE, AND WHEN THE UNIVERSE IS OVERFLOWING WITH TACOS, I'LL TAKE A GREAT BIG BITE!!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT

Saki

Writer/Artist
Ritz Kobayashi

Background Assistant
YAOKI (Yaoki Kakimoto)

Background Inks Asaistants
Daisuke Nakano, Hirofumi Kaneda, Naruhito Izumi, Mario, may

Special Thanks
Tsukineko, ZOOD

Assistant Editor
Genta Yokoyama

Editor
Yoshihiro Hagiwara

SAKI 1

Ritz Kobayashi

Translation: Sheldon Drzka
Lettering: Anthony Quintessenza

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